

BALTIMORE™

THE APOSTLE AND THE WITCH OF HARJU

MIKE
MIGNOLA

CHRISTOPHER
GOLDEN

BEN
STENBECK

PETER
BERGTING

DAVE
STEWART





Lord Baltimore hunts the godlike Red King, who is responsible for the vampire plague. After saving a young woman from her undead husband, Baltimore and his team of fearless vampire killers face the demonic offspring of a witch, and then uncover the truth about the inquisitor turned werewolf Judge Duvic —now more bloodthirsty than ever.

BALTIMORE

*The Apostle
and the Witch of Harju*





BALTIMORETM

THE APOSTLE AND THE WITCH OF HARJU

VOLUME FIVE

Story by

**MIKE MIGNOLA
CHRISTOPHER GOLDEN**

The Witch of Harju Art by

PETER BERGTING

The Wolf and the Apostle Art by

BEN STENBECK

Colors by

DAVE STEWART

Letters by

CLEM ROBINS

Cover Art by

MIKE MIGNOLA with DAVE STEWART

Chapter Break Art by

BEN STENBECK

Editor **SCOTT ALLIE**

Associate Editor **DANIEL CHABON**

Assistant Editor **SHANTEL LAROCQUE**

Collection Designer **AMY ARENDTS**

Publisher **MIKE RICHARDSON**



DARK HORSE BOOKS

Neil Hankerson *Executive Vice President* • Tom Weddle *Chief Financial Officer* • Randy Stradley *Vice President of Publishing* • Michael Martens *Vice President of Book Trade Sales* • Scott Allie *Editor in Chief* • Matt Parkinson *Vice President of Marketing* • David Scroggy *Vice President of Product Development* • Dale LaFountain *Vice President of Information Technology* • Darlene Vogel *Senior Director of Print, Design, and Production* • Ken Lizzi *General Counsel* • Davey Estrada *Editorial Director* • Chris Warner *Senior Books Editor* • Diana Schutz *Executive Editor* • Cary Grazzini *Director of Print and Development* • Lia Ribacchi *Art Director* • Cara Niece *Director of Scheduling* • Mark Bernardi *Director of Digital Publishing*

DarkHorse.com

*Published by Dark Horse Books
A division of Dark Horse Comics, Inc.
10956 SE Main Street
Milwaukie, OR 97222*

*First print edition: March 2015
Digital ISBN 978-1-63008-203-1*

Baltimore Volume 5: The Apostle and the Witch of Harju © 2014, 2015 Mike Mignola and Christopher Golden. Dark Horse Books® and the Dark Horse logo are registered trademarks of Dark Horse Comics, Inc. All rights reserved. No portion of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted, in any form or by any means, without the express written permission of Dark Horse Comics, Inc. Names, characters, places, and incidents featured in this publication either are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual persons (living or dead), events, institutions, or locales, without satiric intent, is coincidental.

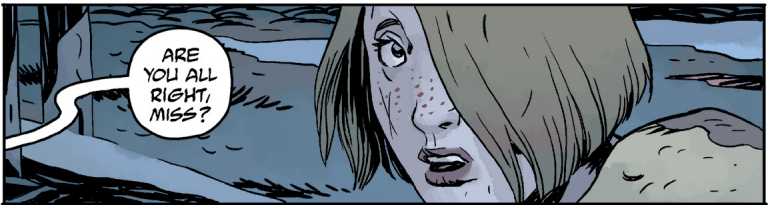
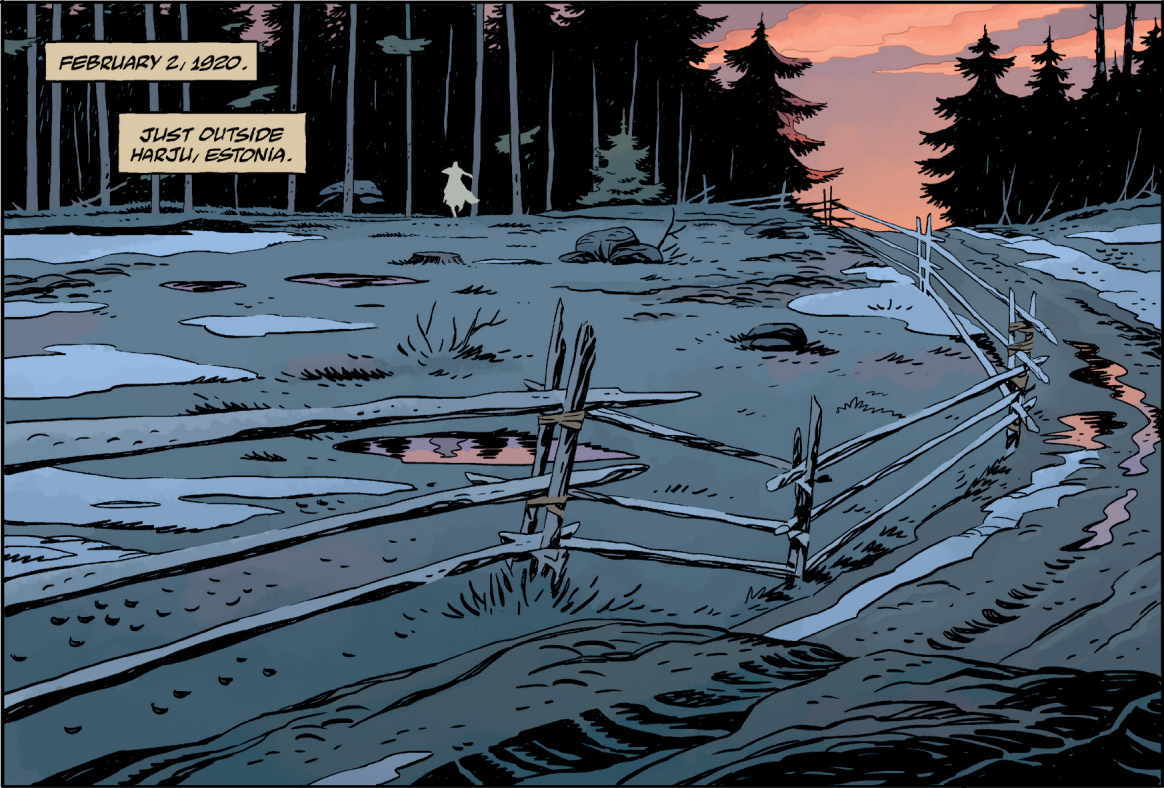
This volume collects *Baltimore: The Witch of Harju* #1–#3 and
Baltimore: The Wolf and the Apostle #1–#2, published by Dark Horse Comics.

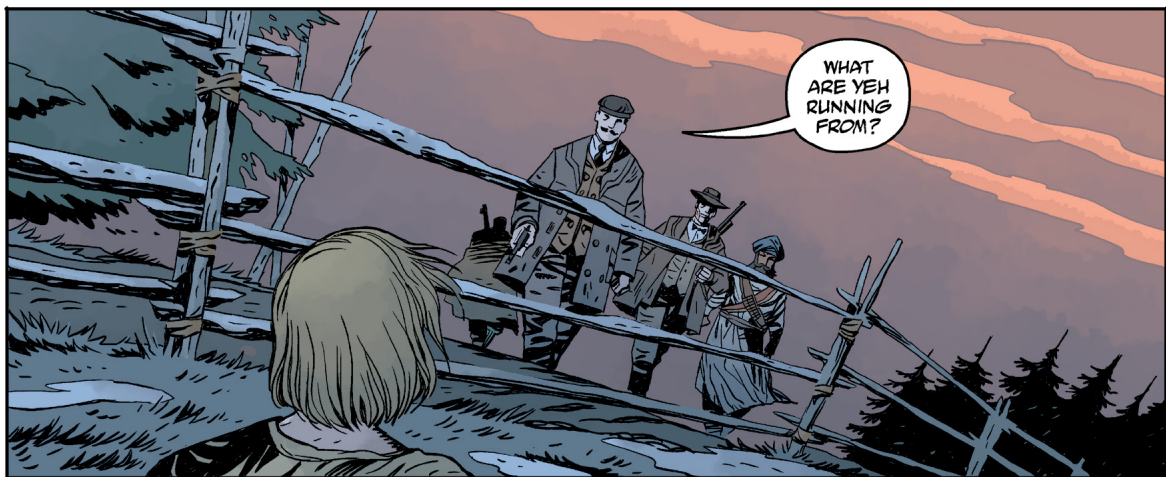
THE WITCH OF HARJU

Chapter One









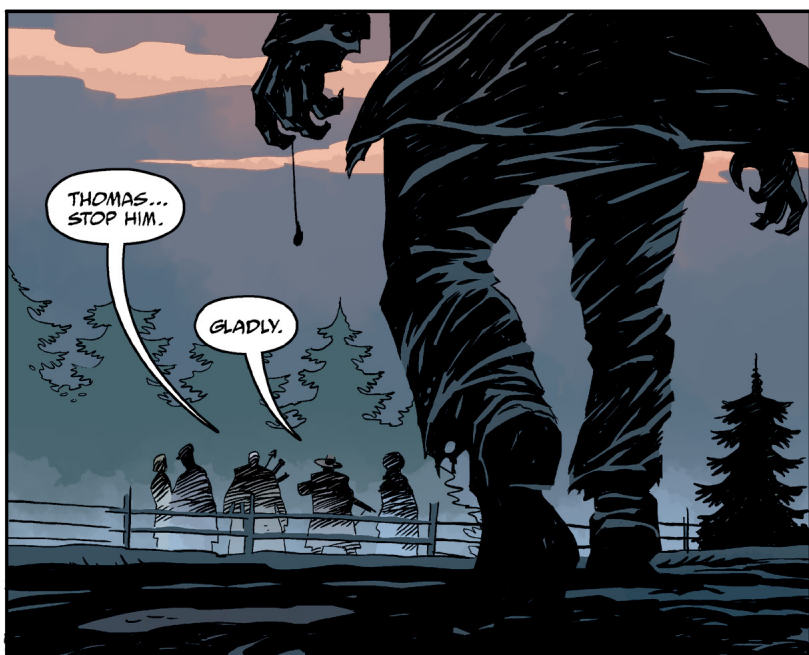
WHAT
ARE YEH
RUNNING
FROM?



ARE YOU BLIND,
QUIGLEY? DO
YOU NOT SEE THE
MAN THERE,
ACROSS THE
FIELD?



HE'S...HE
KILLED THEM...
AND NOW HE
WANTS TO KILL
ME...



THOMAS...
STOP HIM.

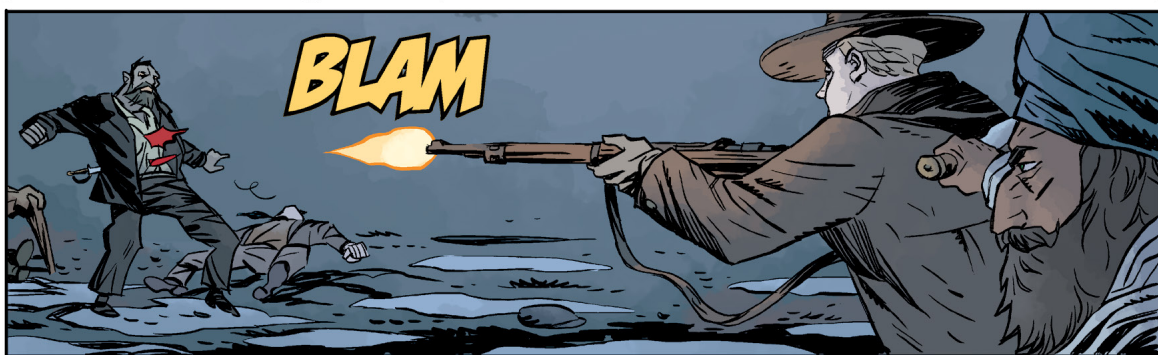
GLADLY.

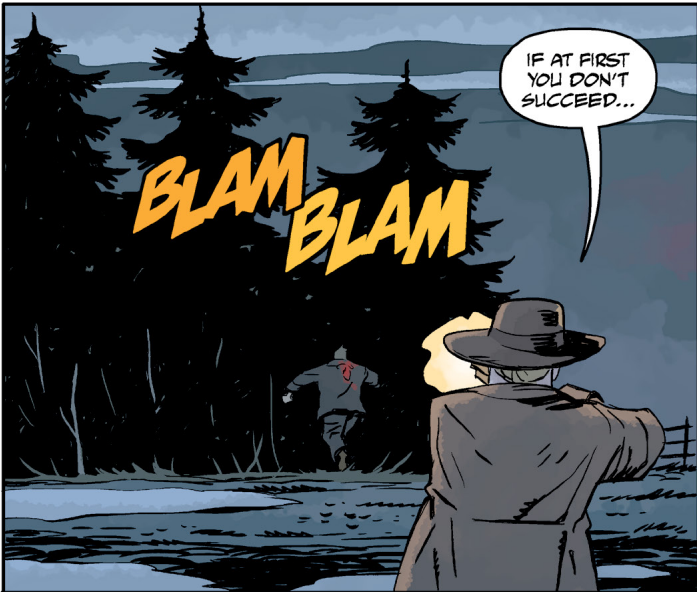


BLAM









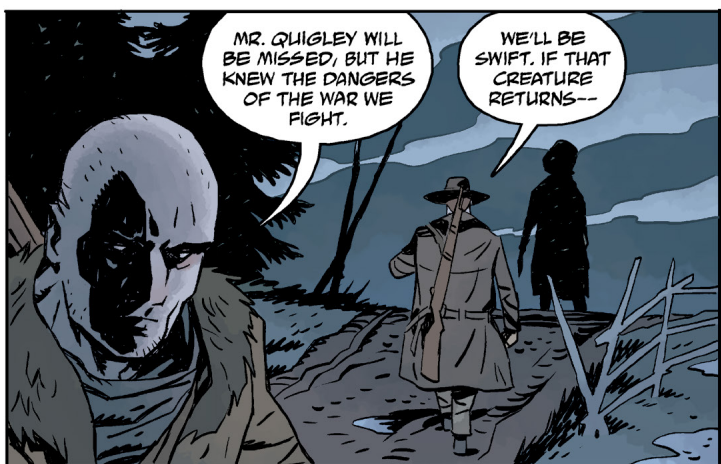




THOMAS, YOU AND HARISH GO INTO THE VILLAGE AND FIND A WAGON SO THAT WE MAY PREPARE A PROPER BURIAL FOR MR. QUIGLEY. I'LL WAIT HERE WITH...

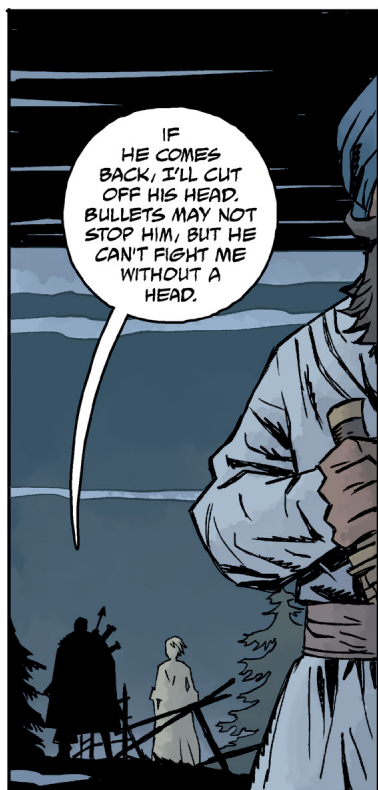


SOFIA VALK. AND THANK YOU...ALL OF YOU. I'M SO SORRY ABOUT YOUR FRIEND.

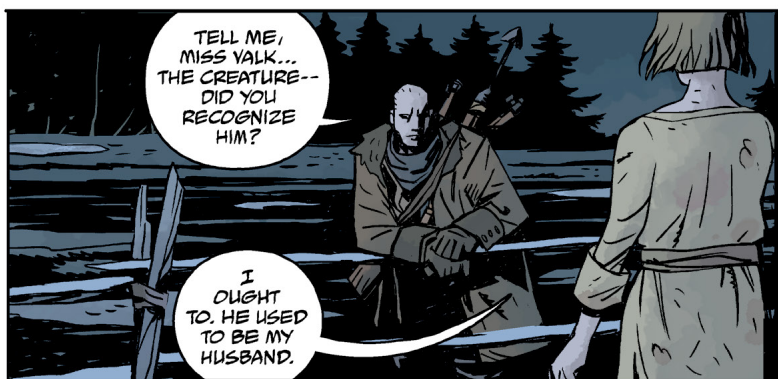


MR. QUIGLEY WILL BE MISSED, BUT HE KNEW THE DANGERS OF THE WAR WE FIGHT.

WE'LL BE SWIFT, IF THAT CREATURE RETURNS--

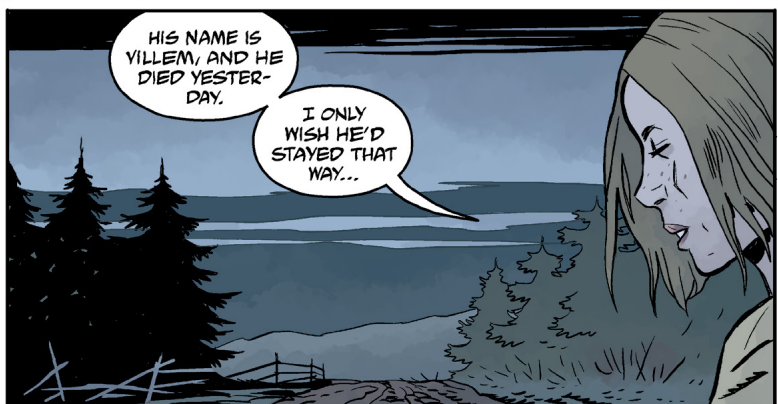


IF HE COMES BACK, I'LL CUT OFF HIS HEAD. BULLETS MAY NOT STOP HIM, BUT HE CAN'T FIGHT ME WITHOUT A HEAD.



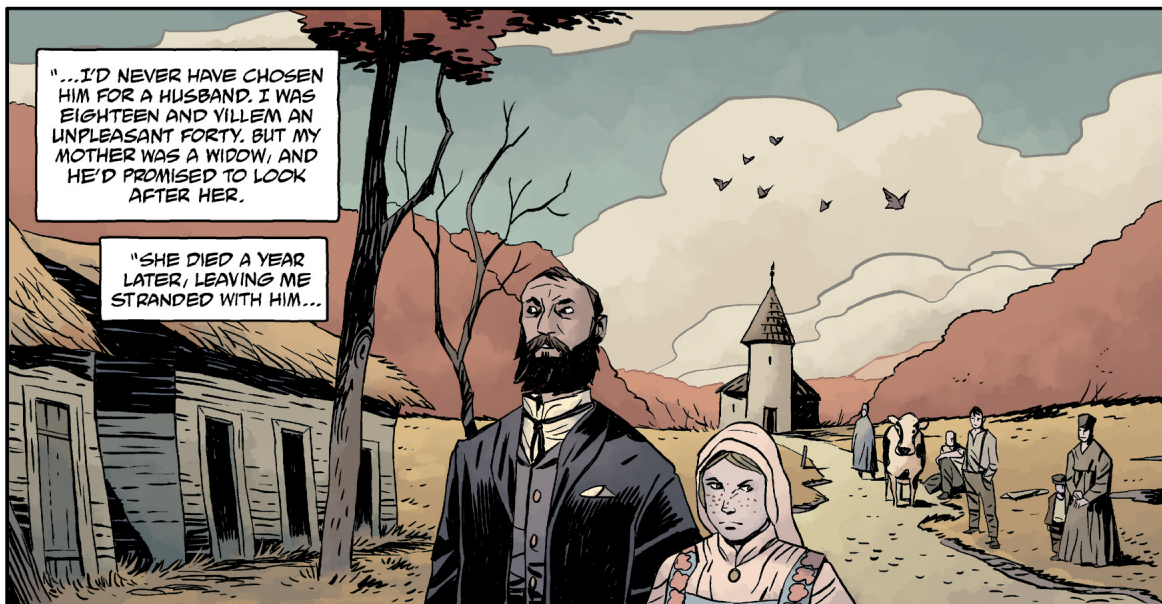
TELL ME, MISS VALK... THE CREATURE-- DID YOU RECOGNIZE HIM?

I OUGHT TO. HE USED TO BE MY HUSBAND.



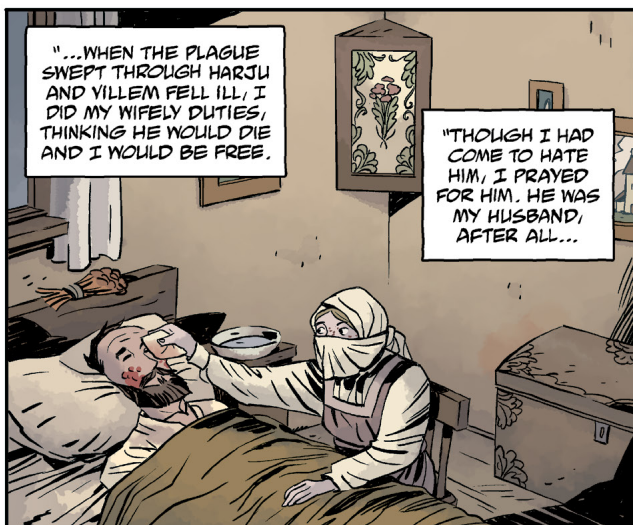
HIS NAME IS VILLEM, AND HE DIED YESTERDAY.

I ONLY WISH HE'D STAYED THAT WAY...



"...I'D NEVER HAVE CHOSEN HIM FOR A HUSBAND. I WAS EIGHTEEN AND VILLEM AN UNPLEASANT FORTY. BUT MY MOTHER WAS A WIDOW, AND HE'D PROMISED TO LOOK AFTER HER.

"SHE DIED A YEAR LATER, LEAVING ME STRANDED WITH HIM...

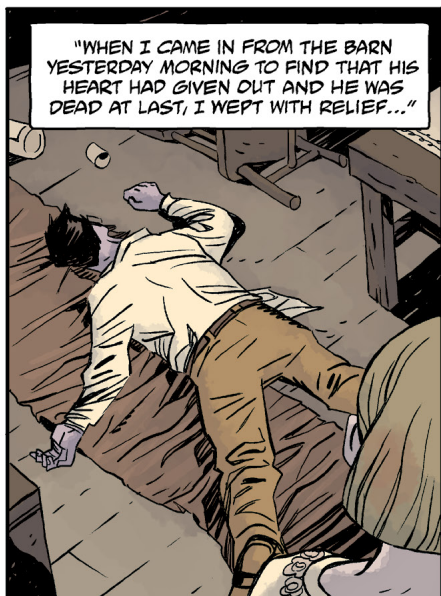


"...WHEN THE PLAGUE SWEEPED THROUGH HARJU AND VILLEM FELL ILL, I DID MY WIFELY DUTIES, THINKING HE WOULD DIE AND I WOULD BE FREE.

"THOUGH I HAD COME TO HATE HIM, I PRAYED FOR HIM. HE WAS MY HUSBAND, AFTER ALL....



"...AND THEN HE RECOVERED, AND HE MADE ME REMEMBER HOW **FOOLISH** I'D BEEN TO PRAY FOR HIS SURVIVAL...

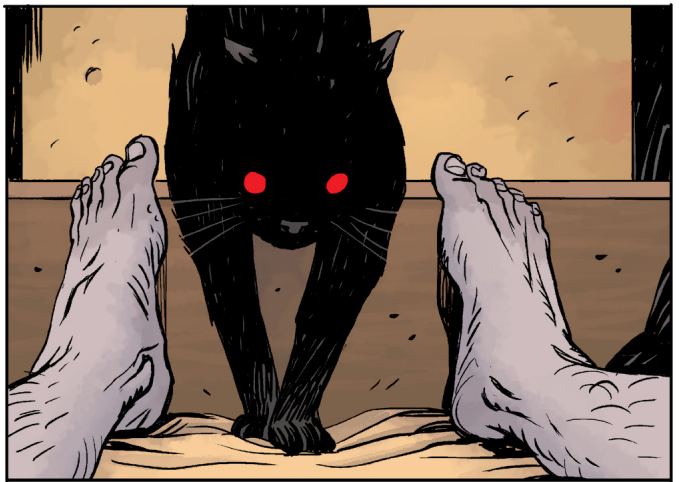
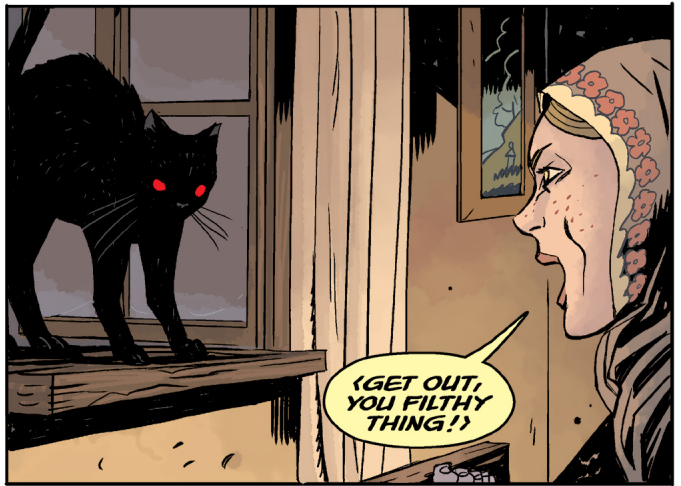


"WHEN I CAME IN FROM THE BARN YESTERDAY MORNING TO FIND THAT HIS HEART HAD GIVEN OUT AND HE WAS DEAD AT LAST, I WEPT WITH RELIEF..."

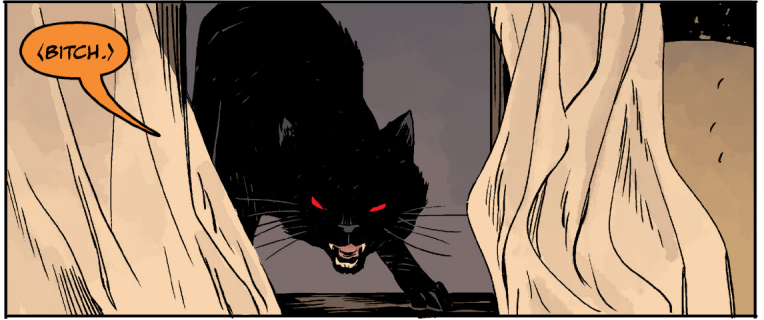


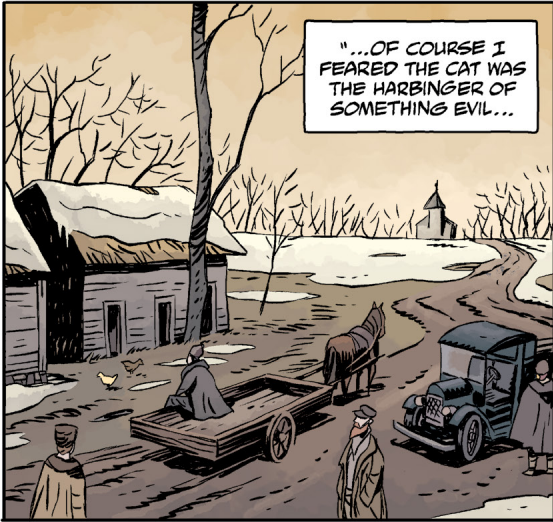
I THOUGHT I WAS FREE.

NOW I FEAR I NEVER WILL BE...

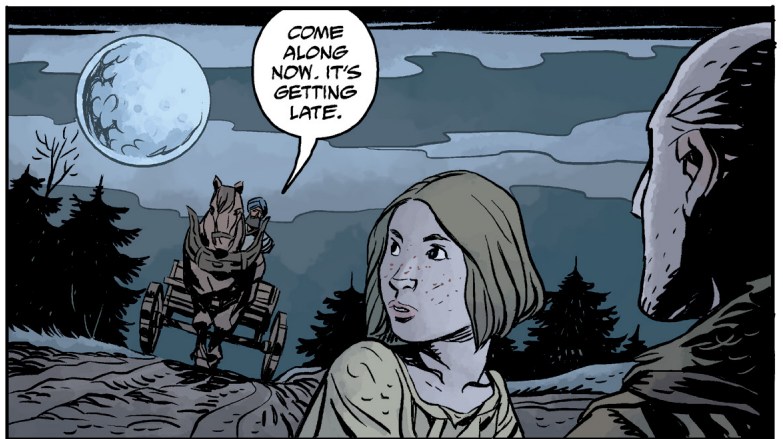
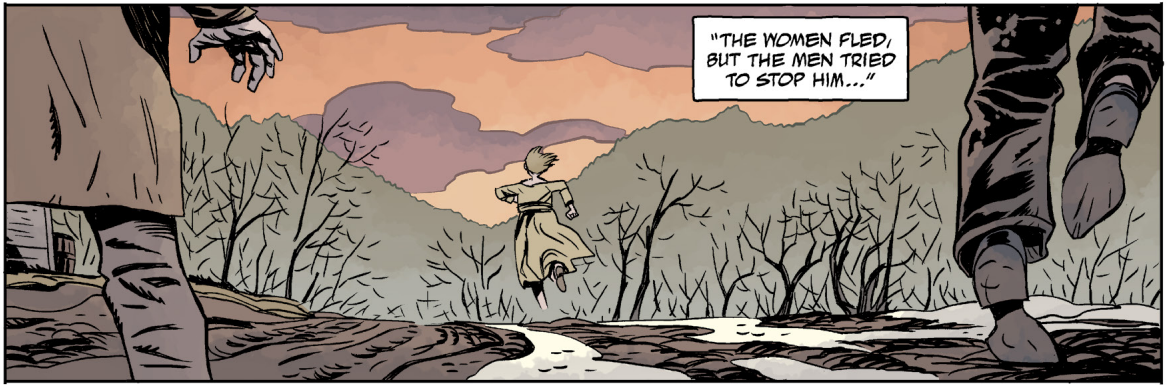
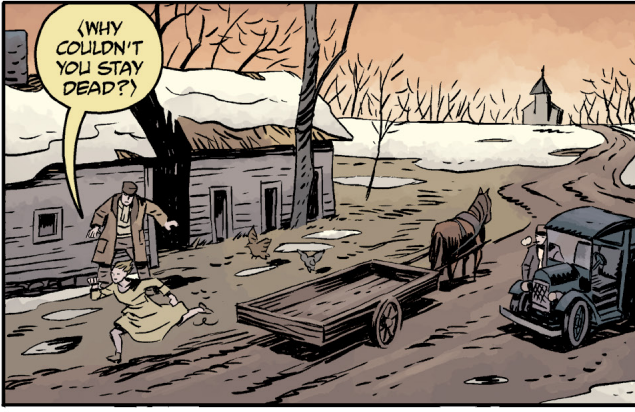


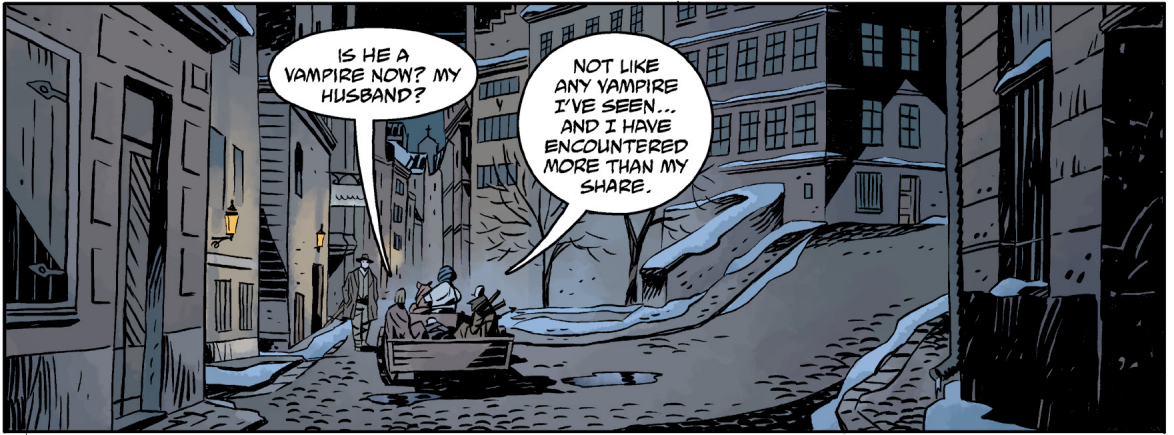
(TRANSLATED FROM ESTONIAN)











IS HE A VAMPIRE NOW? MY HUSBAND?

NOT LIKE ANY VAMPIRE I'VE SEEN... AND I HAVE ENCOUNTERED MORE THAN MY SHARE.



THIS IS JAAKOB, THE INNKEEPER. HE'S SORTED OUR ROOMS FOR THE NIGHT.

YOU ARE MY WELCOME GUESTS. BUT NOT THE DEAD MAN...



...HIM YOU TAKE TO PAAVD. HE BURY THE DEAD MAN FOR YOU.



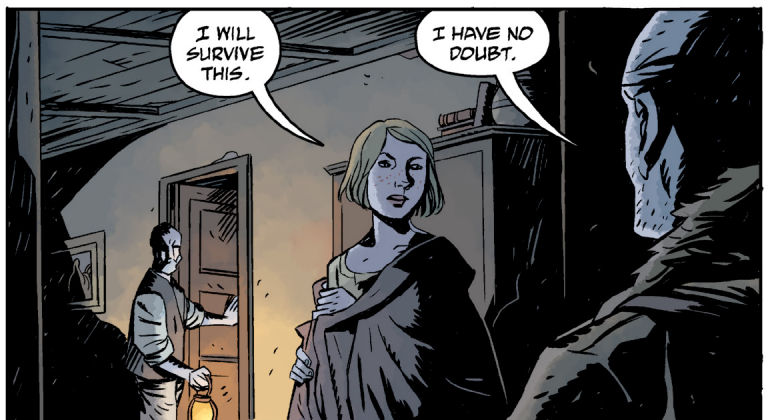
I'M GRATEFUL TO YOU, JAAKOB, FOR THE ROOMS AND FOR DIRECTIONS TO THE UNDERTAKER'S SHOP. IT'S BEEN A LONG DAY.

IS MY PLEASURE, SIR. YOU REST NOW.



TRY TO SLEEP WELL, MISS YALK. MY FRIENDS AND I WILL KEEP THE MONSTERS FROM YOUR DOOR.

THE PAST TWO DAYS HAVE BROUGHT GRIEF AND TERROR TO MY LIFE, LORD BALTIMORE... BUT I HAVE ENDURED BOTH BEFORE AND SURVIVED.



I WILL SURVIVE THIS.

I HAVE NO DOUBT.



WE MUST THANK YOU AGAIN FOR YOUR HOSPITALITY, JAAKOB. IN THESE DARK TIMES, THERE ARE MANY WHO WILL NOT OPEN THEIR DOORS TO STRANGERS. EVEN INNKEEPERS.

I AM A MAN WITH NOTHING LEFT TO LOSE.

DRINK, NOW. AND TELL JAAKOB WHAT YOU DO HERE, SO FAR FROM HOME.



I SUPPOSE YOU'D SAY WE'RE HUNTING.

A PRIEST IN RIGA TOLD US HE HAD HEARD RUMORS OF WITCHCRAFT IN HARJU...STORIES OF CURSES AND OF PEOPLE GONE MISSING.



YOU LOOK FOR CURSED VILLAGE? SORRY TO TELL YOU, FRIENDS...

...YOU FIND WHAT YOU ARE LOOKING FOR.



MY NEPHEW, KALEV...HE COULD TELL YOU STORY ABOUT CURSES...IF YOU COULD RAISE DEAD MAN BACK TO LIFE...



"LAST SPRING KALEV GO HUNTING IN WOODS..."



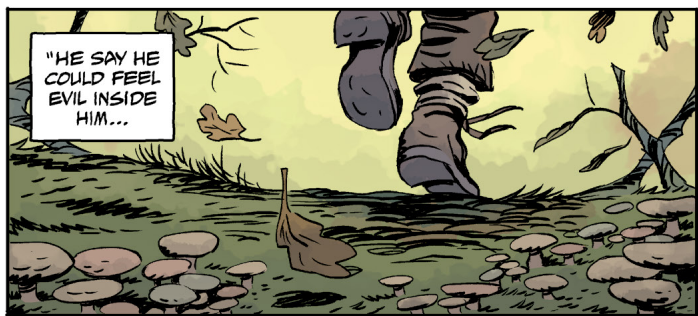
"...HE FIND
CLEARING...BLOOD
AND STRANGE
MARKS, DEAD
ANIMAL...AND HE
KNOW IS PLACE OF
BLACK MAGIC..."



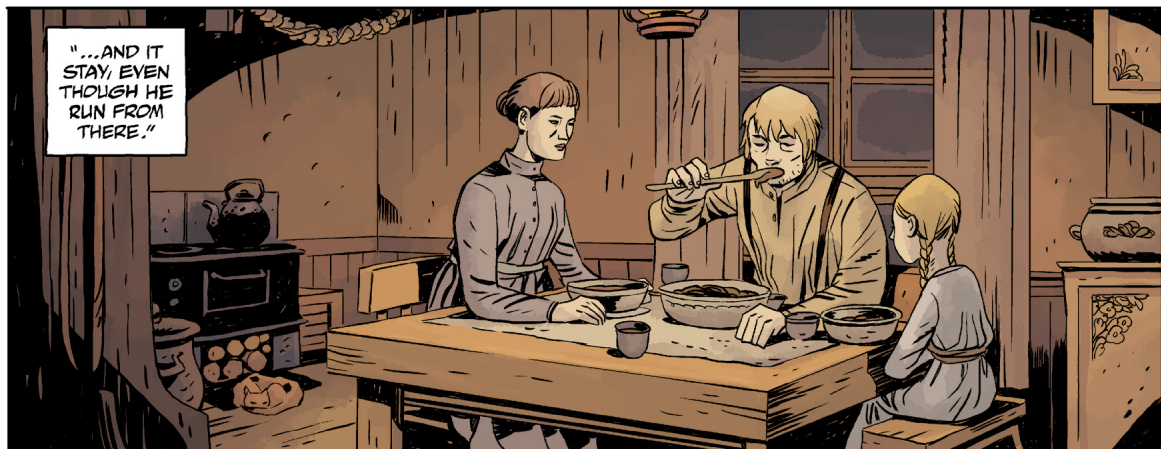
"...BLASPHEMY,
KALEV SAY, AND HE
DESTROY IT..."



CAW

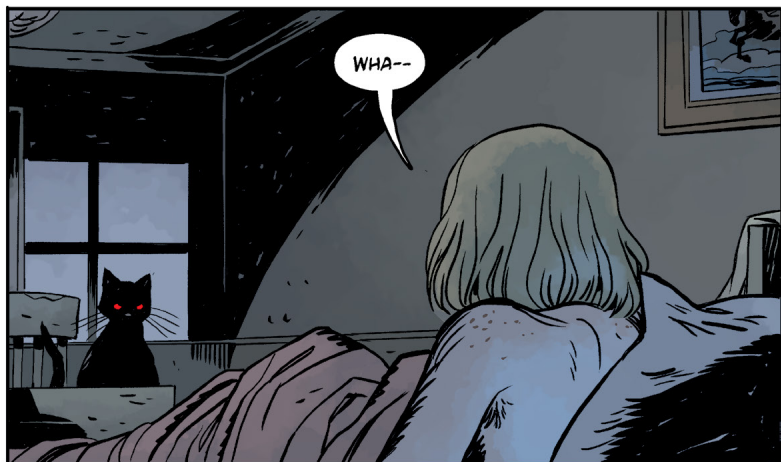


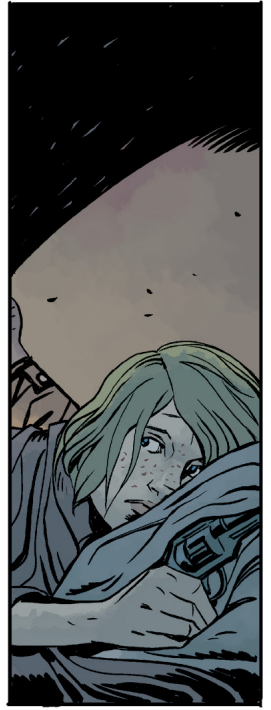
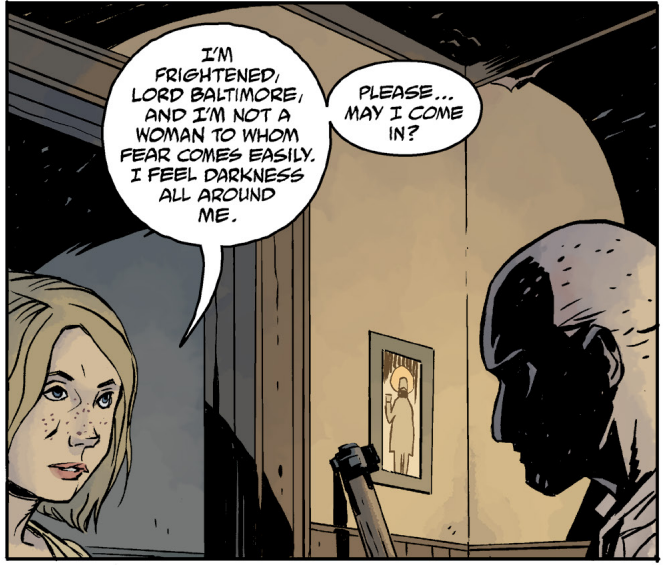
"HE SAY HE
COULD FEEL
EVIL INSIDE
HIM..."



"...AND IT
STAY, EVEN
THOUGH HE
RUN FROM
THERE."









THE WITCH OF HARJU
Chapter Two







I DON'T BELIEVE THAT'S THE PROPER QUESTION, MY FRIEND...



...THE PROPER QUESTION IS WHETHER IT WAS A CAT AT ALL.



...NEVER SEEN THE LITTLE BEAST IN HERE BEFORE. I KEEP A CLEAN WORKSHOP.

I CAN'T HELP THINKING YOU'LL SEE IT AGAIN SOON ENOUGH.



YOU SHOULD BURY HIM QUICKLY, AND BLESS HIM FIRST. THE CAT IS A DARK OMEN.



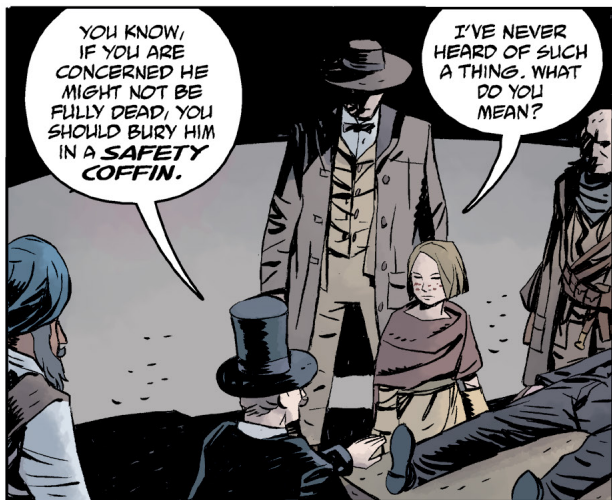
WE'LL NEED A PRIEST, THEN, AND A SHOVEL.

THE SHOVEL I CAN HELP WITH. AND I CAN TAKE HIM TO THE CEMETERY IN MY WAGON.

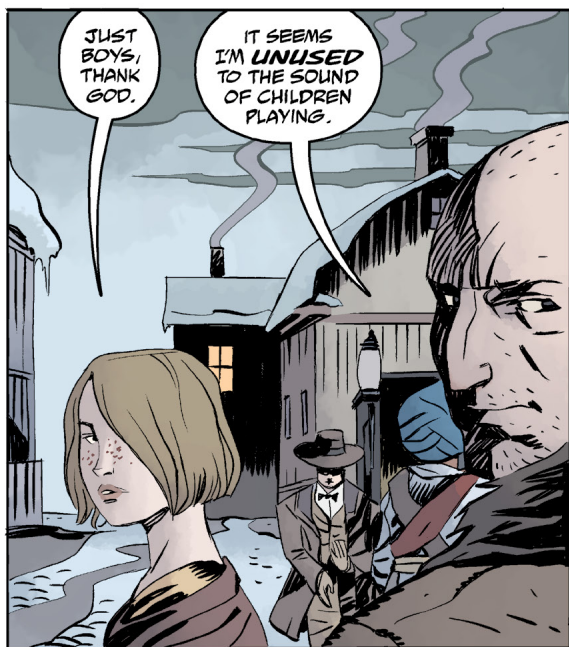
BUT WE HAVEN'T HAD A PRIEST SINCE FATHER ANDRIUS GREW MUSHROOMS FROM HIS EYES.

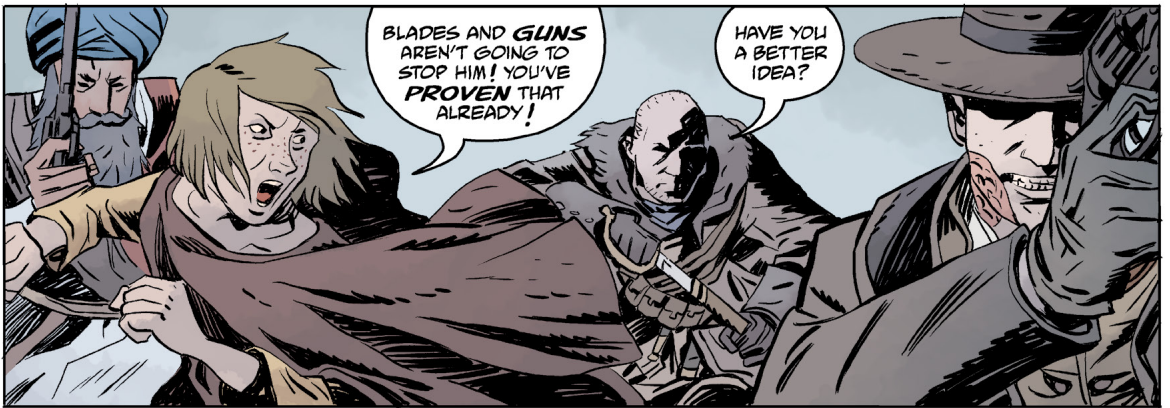


GOOD GOD. WHAT BECAME OF HIM?

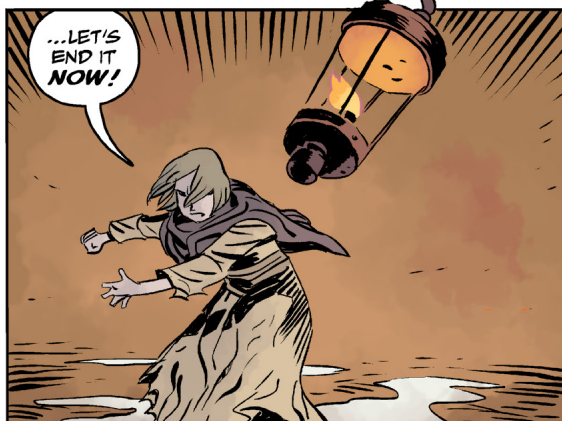




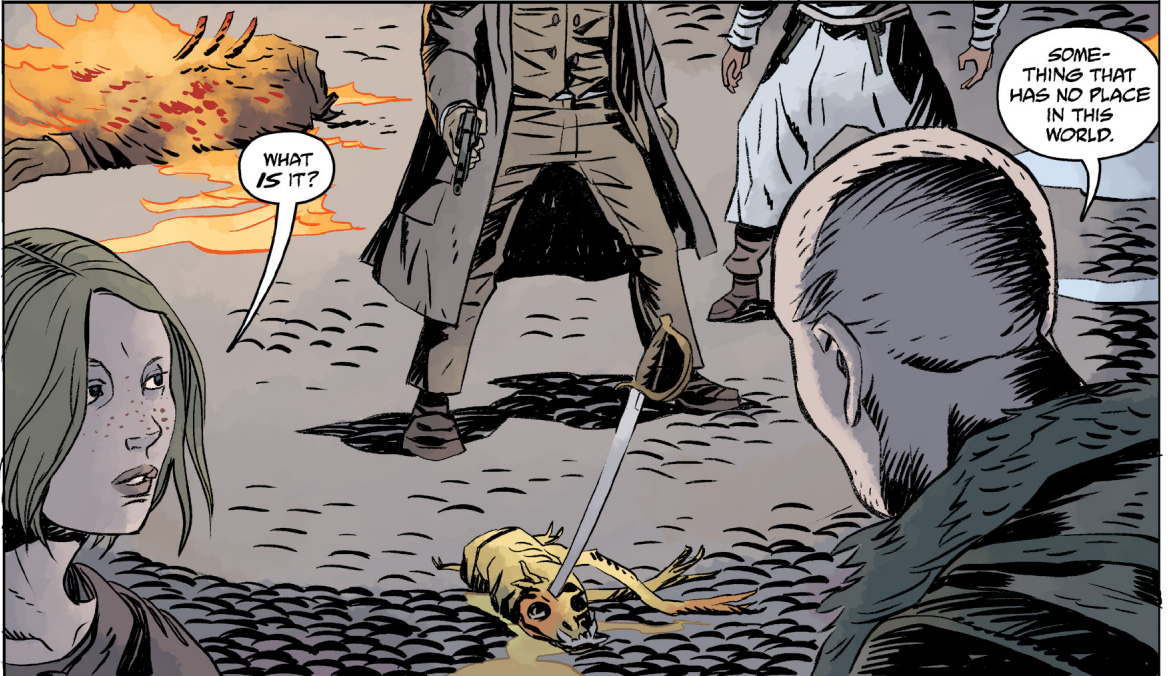
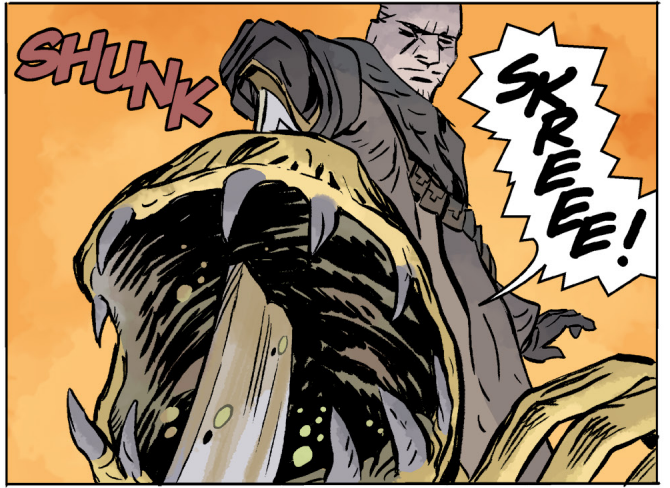








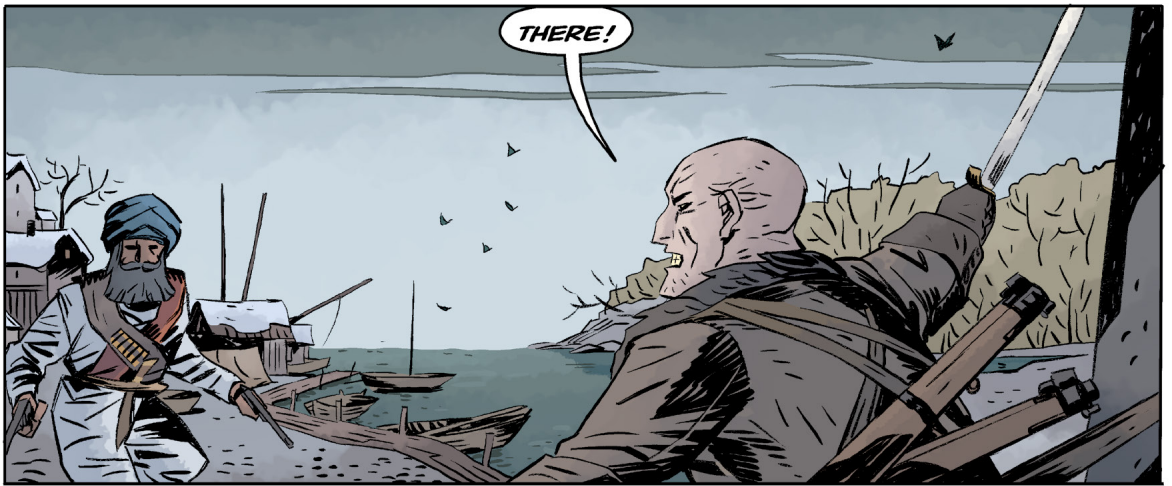




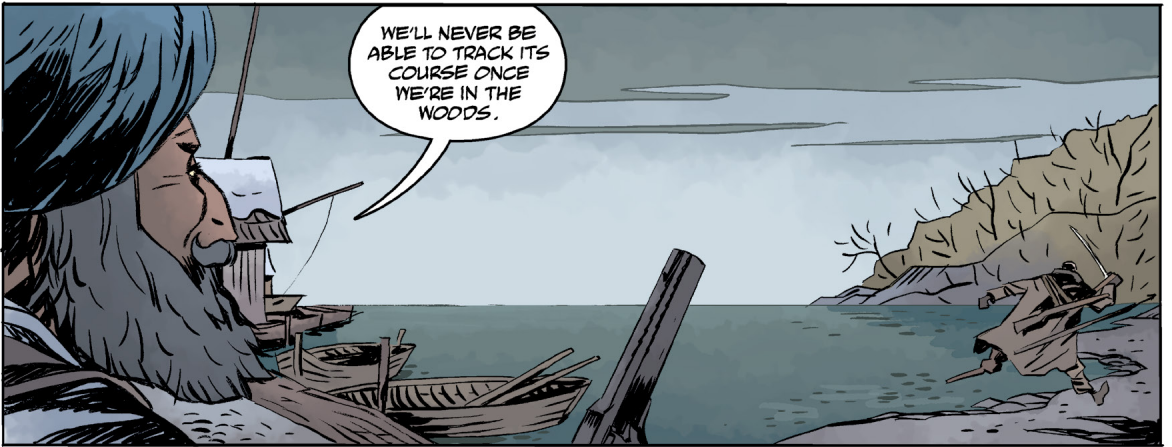


(TRANSLATED FROM ESTONIAN)





THERE!



WE'LL NEVER BE
ABLE TO TRACK ITS
COURSE ONCE
WE'RE IN THE
WOODS.



KRSH

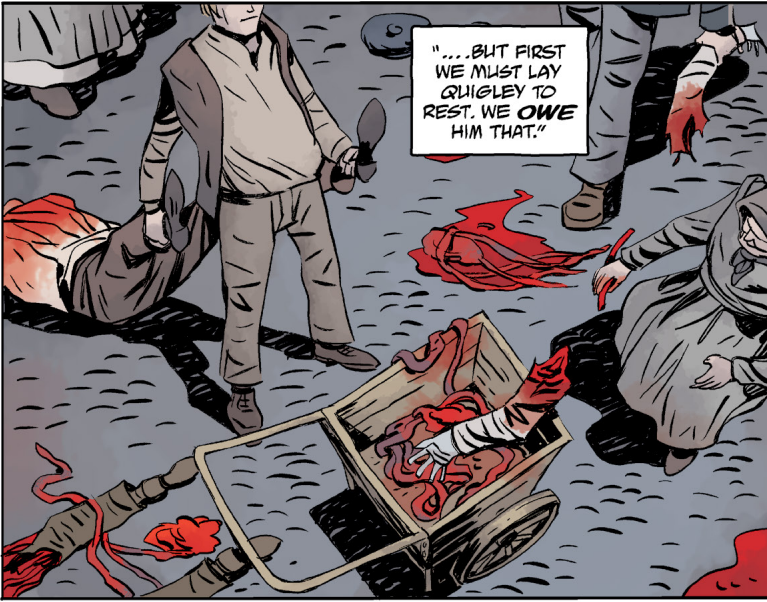


LORD
BALTIMORE?

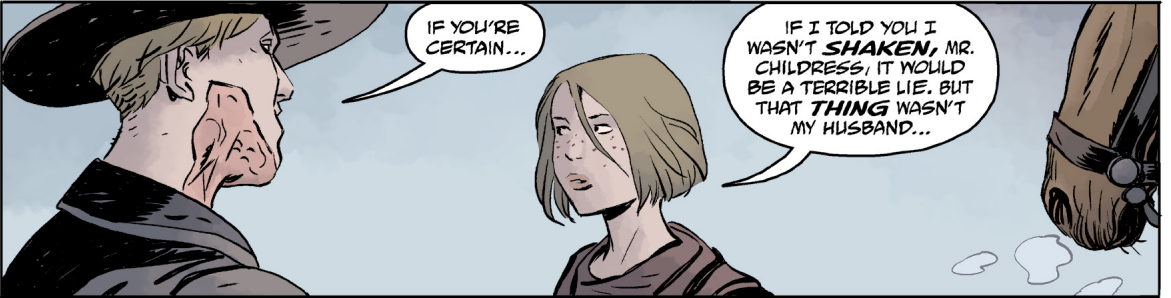


WE MUST FIND THE
WITCH'S CLEARING, THE
PLACE THE INNKEEPER'S
SON STUMBLED UPON...
WHERE SHE PERFORMS
HER RITUALS. IT IS
HERE SOME-
WHERE.

AND
WE WILL
FIND
IT...



"...BUT FIRST
WE MUST LAY
QUICKLY TO
REST. WE OWE
HIM THAT."



IF YOU'RE
CERTAIN...

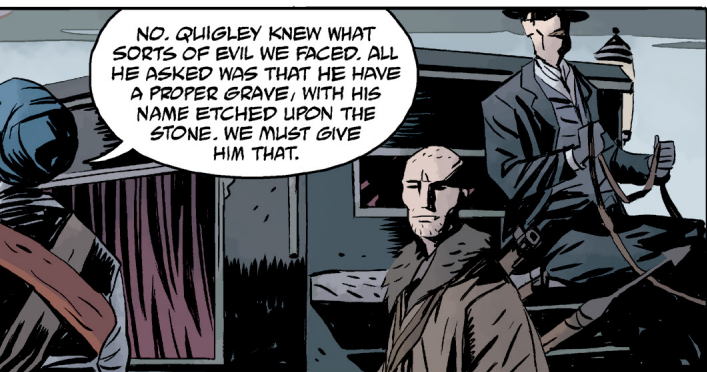
IF I TOLD YOU I
WASN'T **SHAKEN**, MR.
CHILDRESS, IT WOULD
BE A TERRIBLE LIE. BUT
THAT **THING** WASN'T
MY HUSBAND...

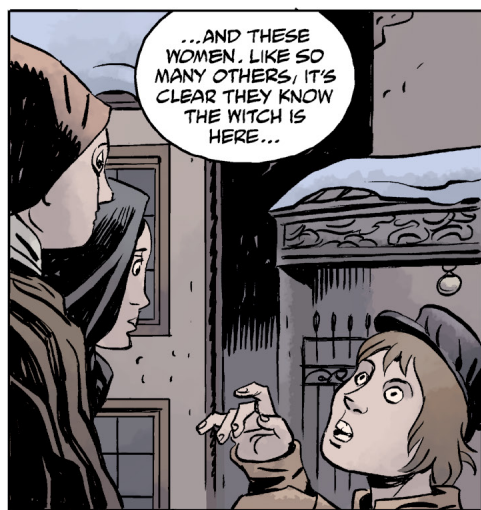


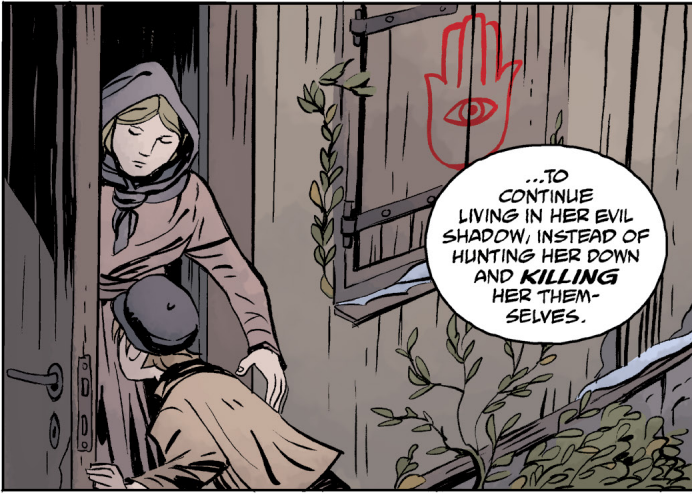
...YLLEM WAS A
DIFFERENT
SORT OF
MONSTER.



I AM GLAD YOU
ARE UNHARMED,
MY FRIENDS, BUT
NOW I MUST
ASK...









(I HAVE HER.
SHE IS WITH
THE LORD
NOW..)

(IS SHE? THEN I
HOPE SHE **CUTS**
HIS THROAT!
HE DESERVES NO
LESS FOR WHAT
HE HAS DONE
TO US!)



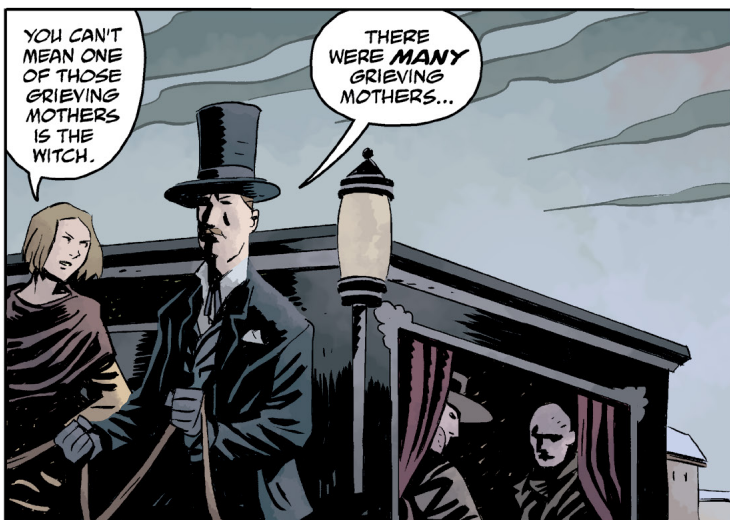
(YOUR MOTHER'S
HEART IS SHATTERED
BY GRIEF, LITTLE ONE.
BUT SHE MAY BE
RIGHT.)



(IF YOU
MEET THE
LORD IN
HEAVEN...)



(...SPIT
IN HIS
EYE FOR
ME.)



YOU CAN'T
MEAN ONE
OF THOSE
GRIEVING
MOTHERS
IS THE
WITCH.

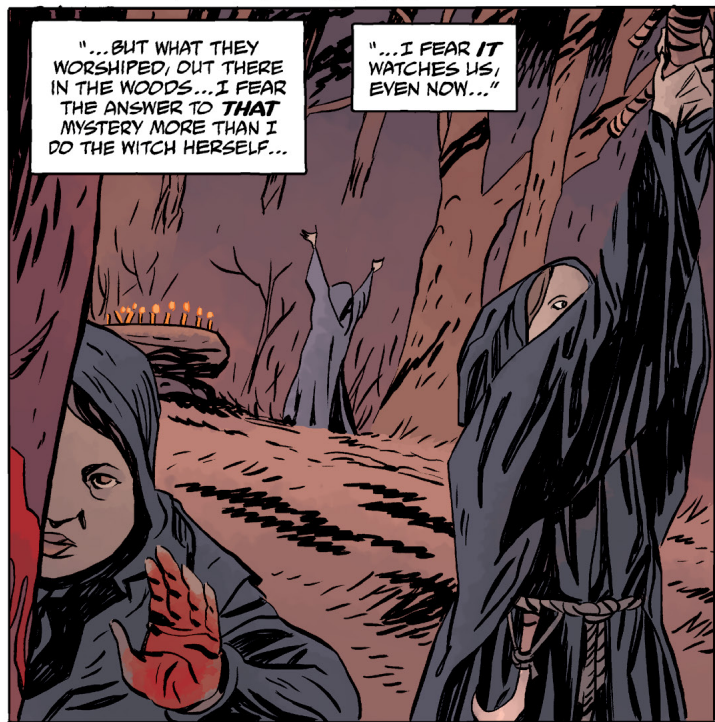
THERE
WERE **MANY**
GRIEVING
MOTHERS...



"...WAS ONE OF THEM THE WITCH, OR IS THE WITCH SOMETHING THEY SUMMONED?"



"THAT IS A MYSTERY..."



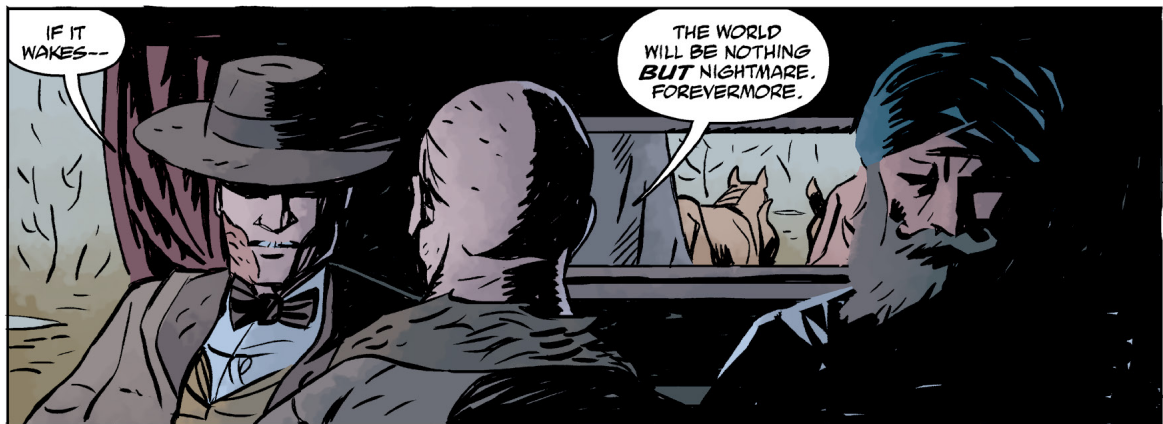
"...BUT WHAT THEY WORSHIPED, OUT THERE IN THE WOODS... I FEAR THE ANSWER TO *THAT* MYSTERY MORE THAN I DO THE WITCH HERSELF..."

"...I FEAR *IT* WATCHES US, EVEN NOW..."



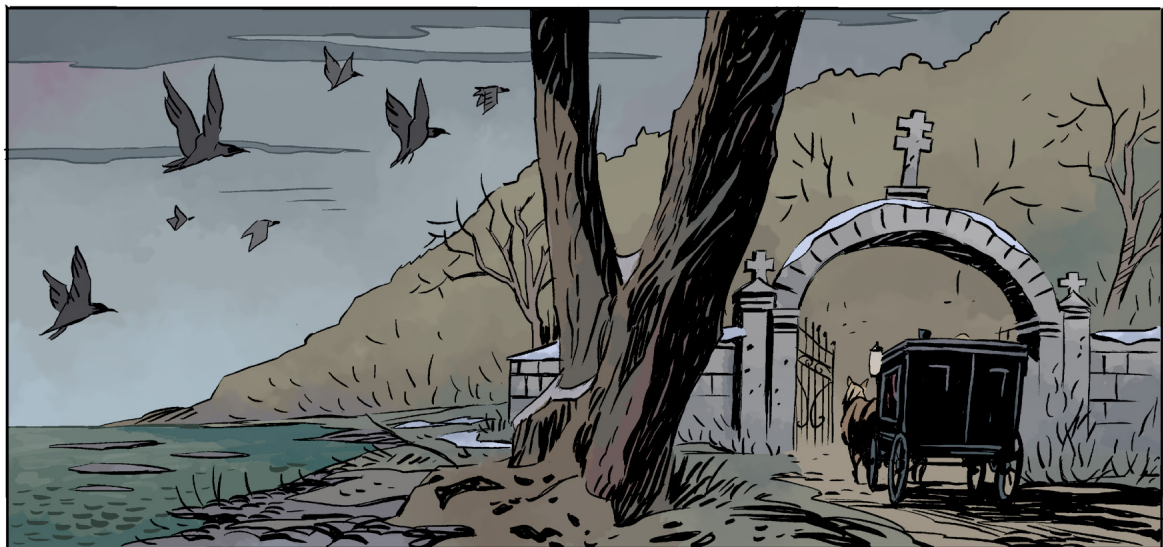
SOMETIMES I WAKE FROM A TERRIBLE DREAM AND I THINK *IT* MUST BE DREAMING, TOO. NIGHTMARES WORSE THAN MY OWN.

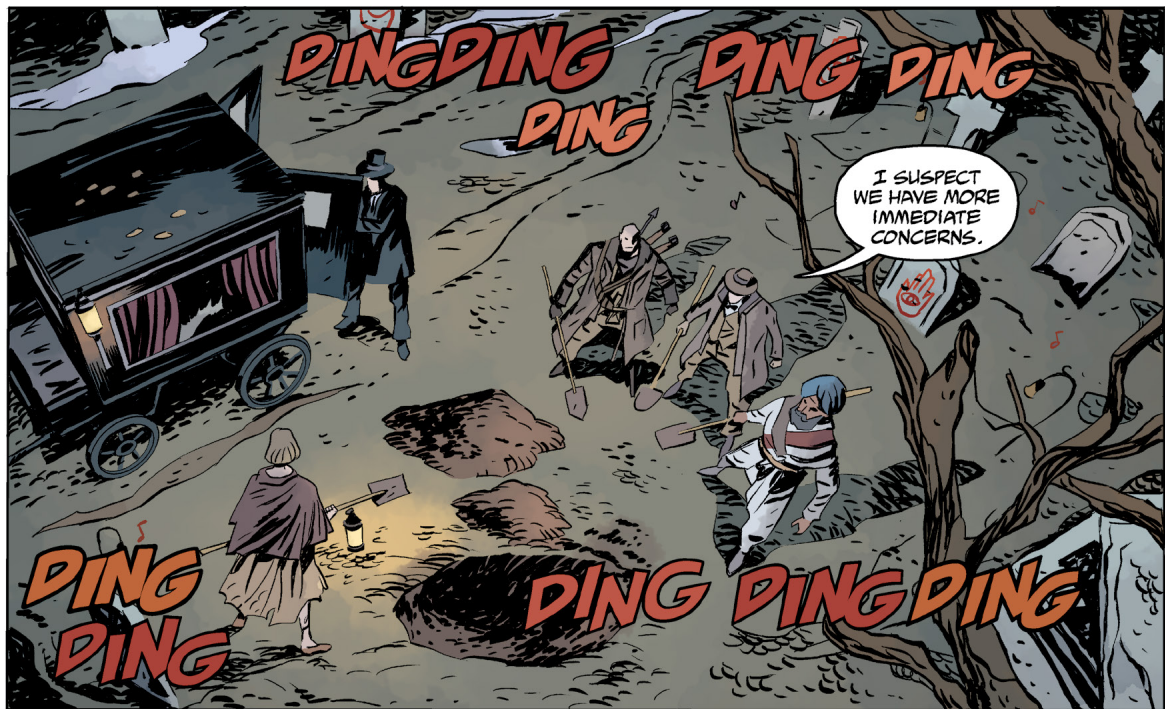
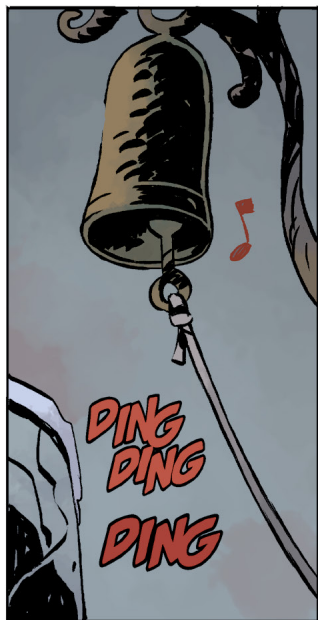
AND WHAT IF IT WAKES?



IF IT WAKES--

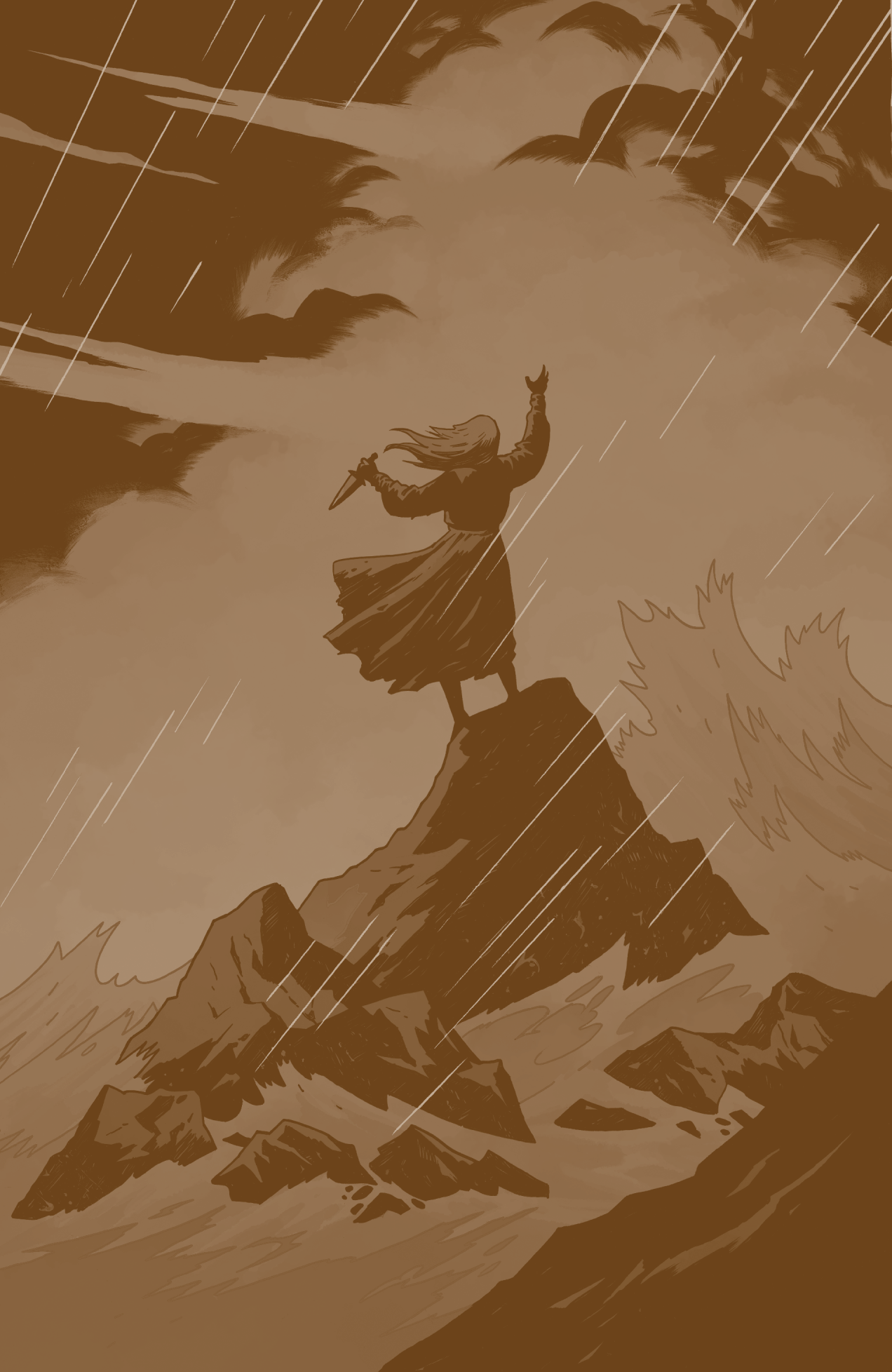
THE WORLD WILL BE NOTHING *BUT* NIGHTMARE. FOREVERMORE.

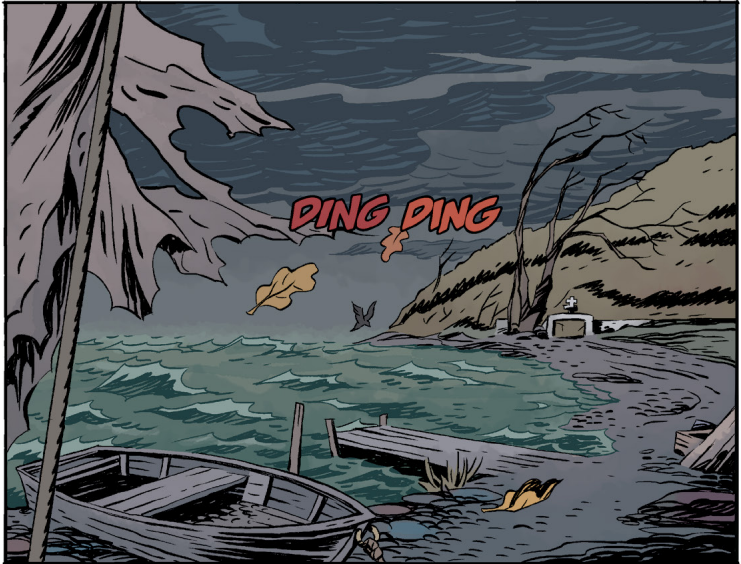






THE WITCH OF HARJU
Chapter Three



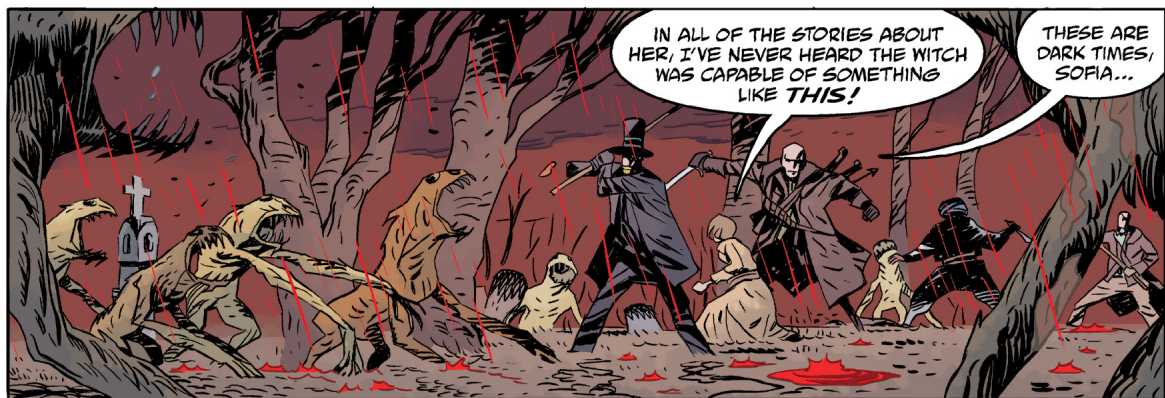








⟨TRANSLATED FROM ANCIENT CHALDEAN!⟩

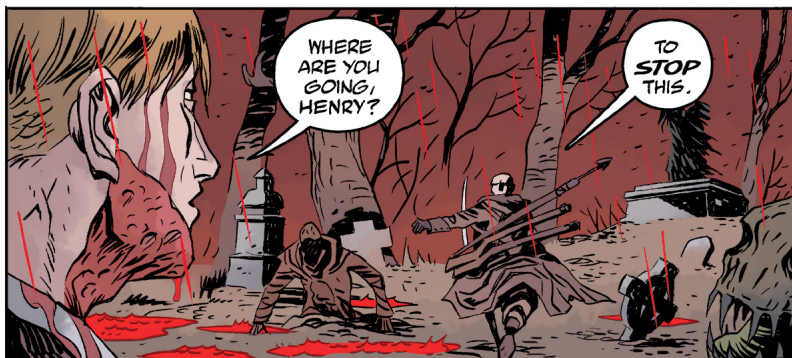


IN ALL OF THE STORIES ABOUT HER, I'VE NEVER HEARD THE WITCH WAS CAPABLE OF SOMETHING LIKE *THIS*!

THESE ARE DARK TIMES, SOFIA...



...AND THEY GROW EVER DARKER.



WHERE ARE YOU GOING, HENRY?

TO STOP THIS.

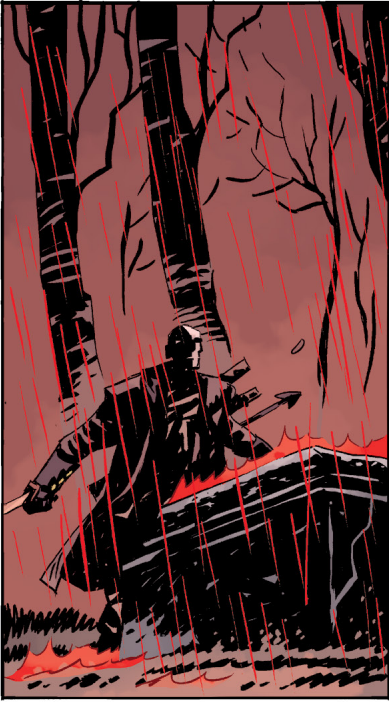


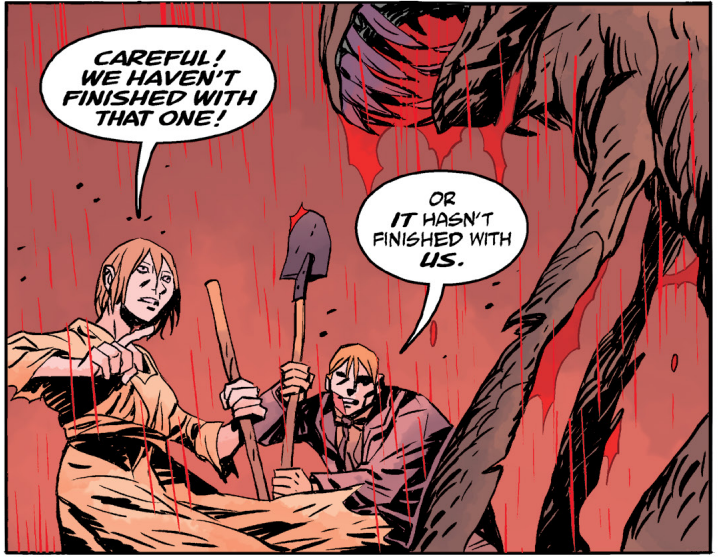
WITHOUT HIM, WE'RE SURE TO DIE!

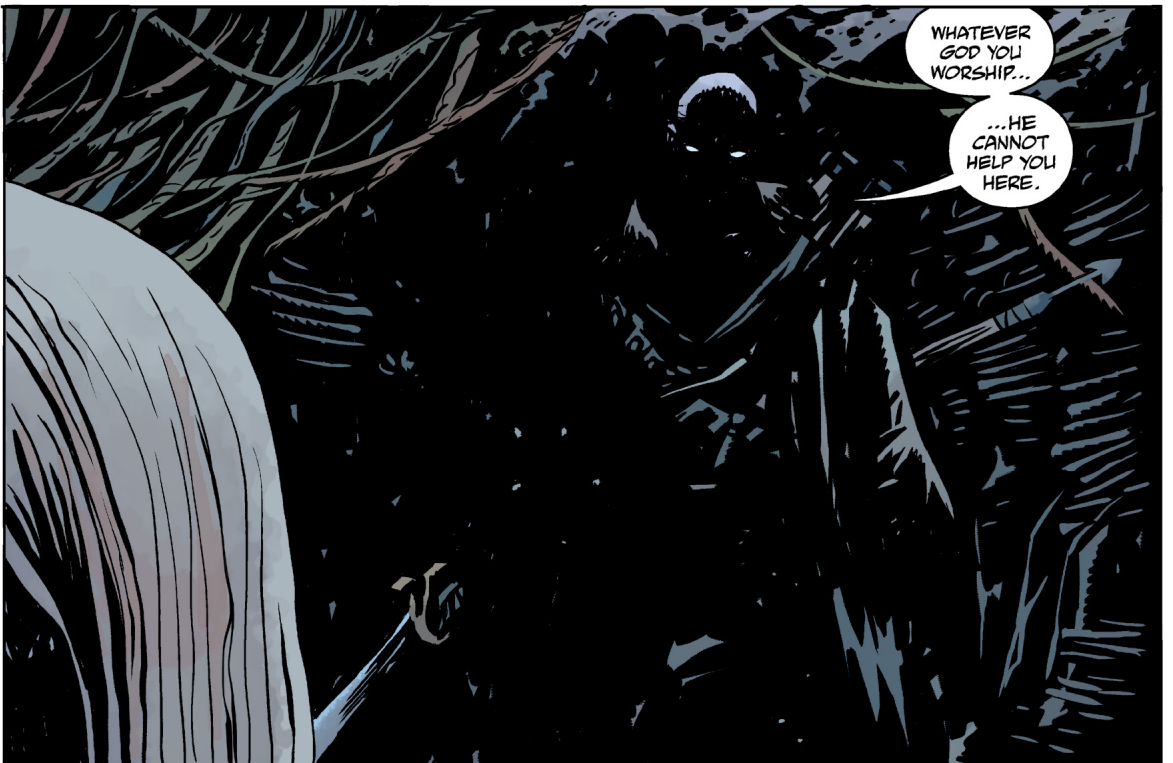
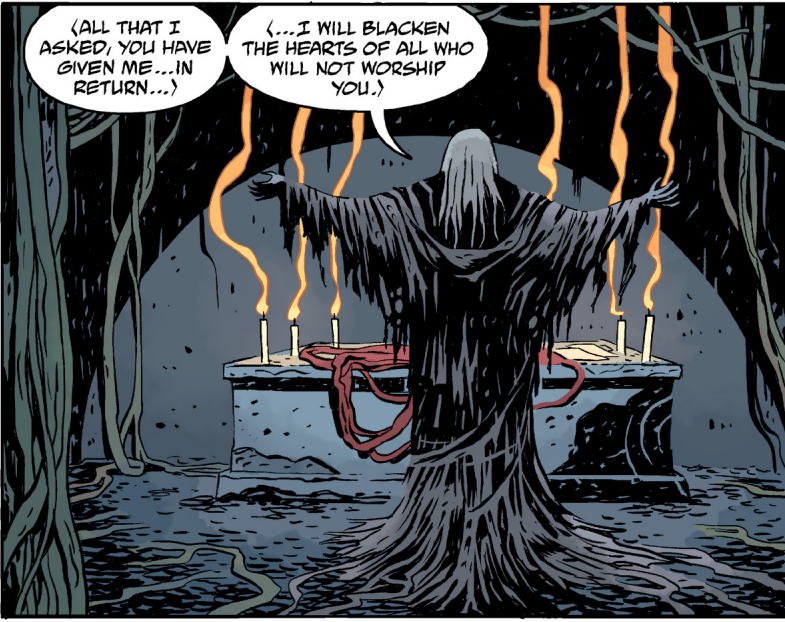
KRAK

HE KNOWS WHAT HE'S DOING.

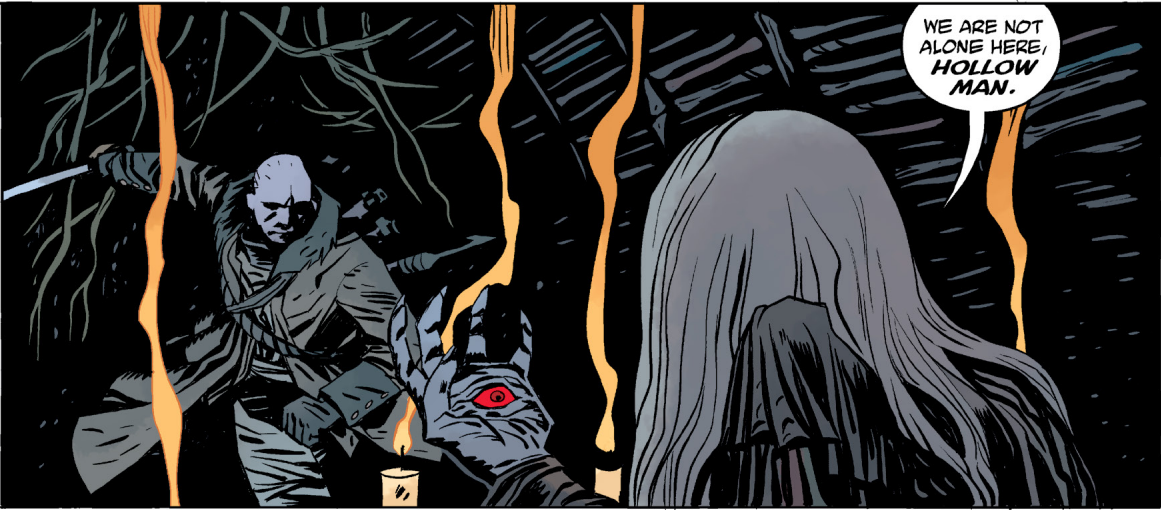


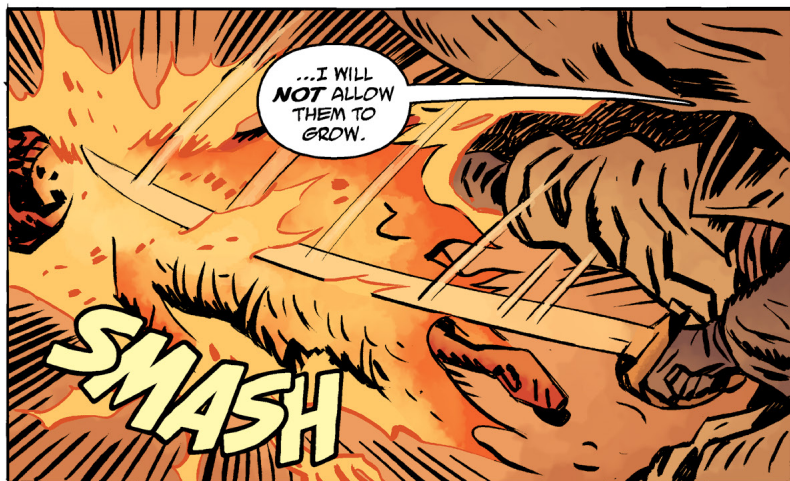


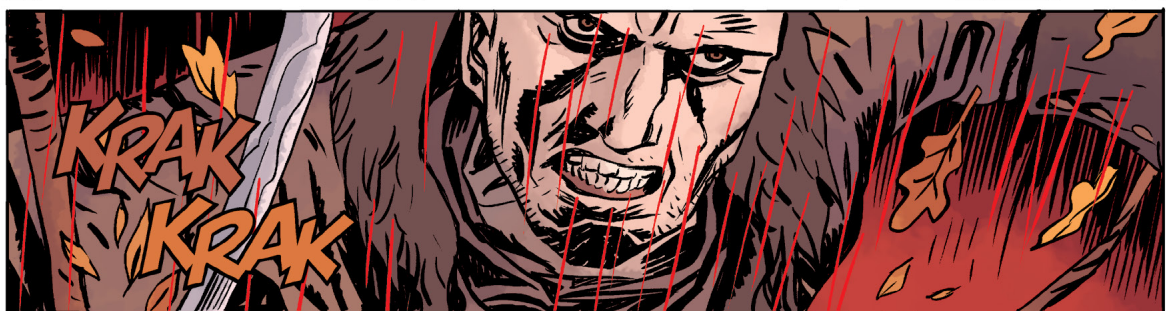


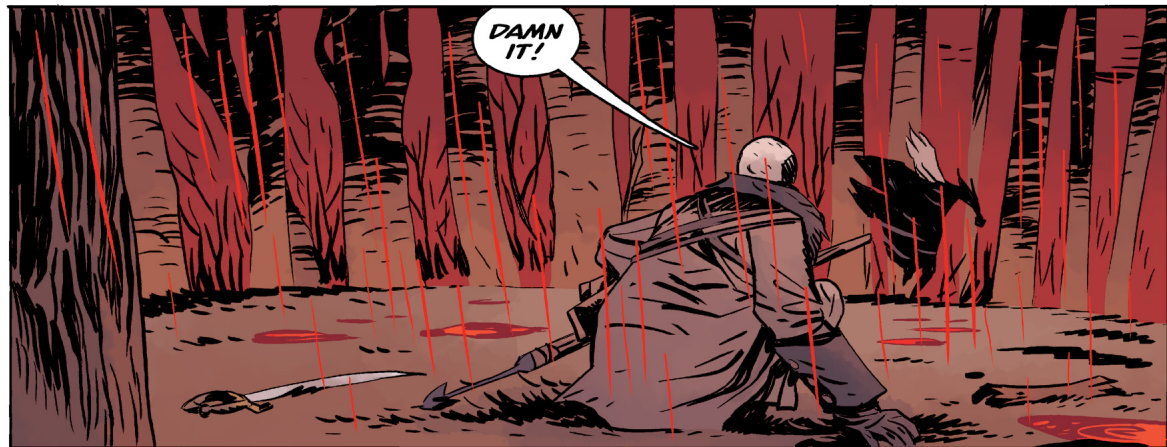
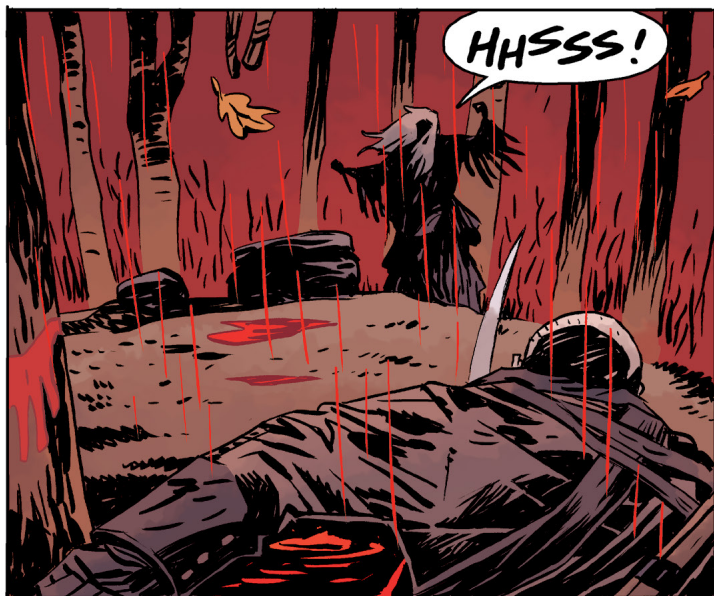


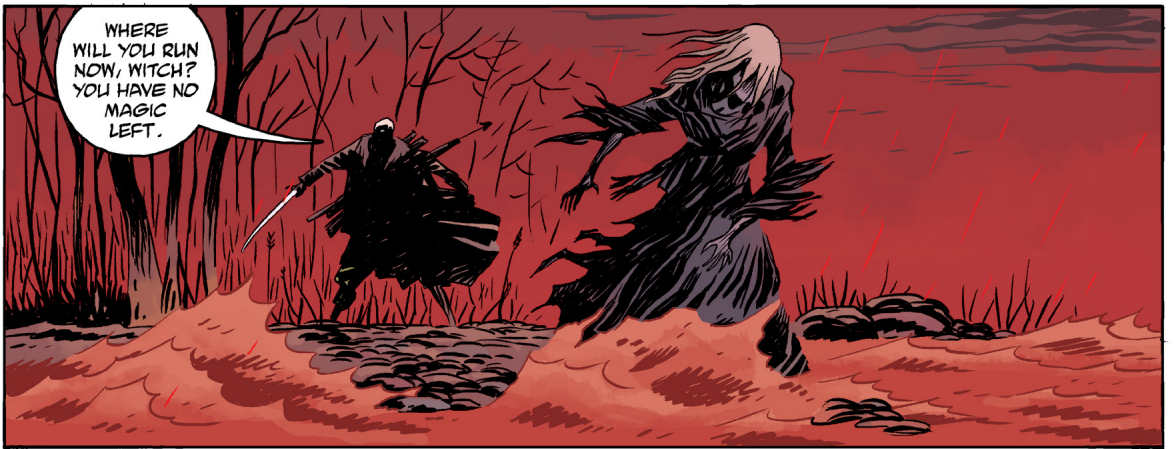


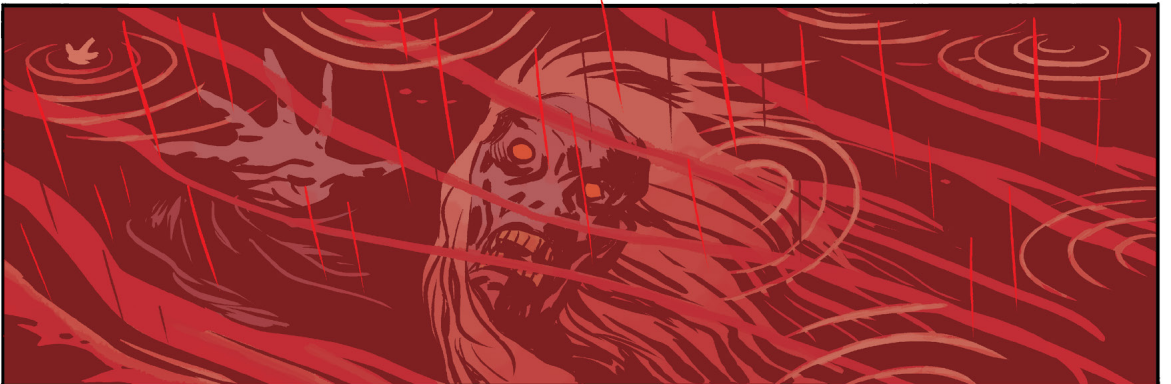
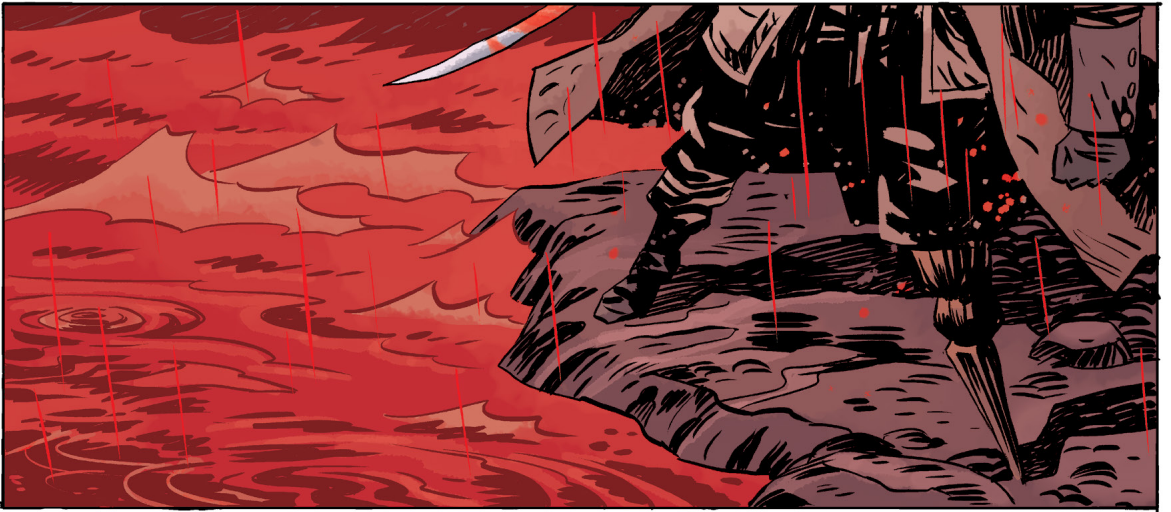
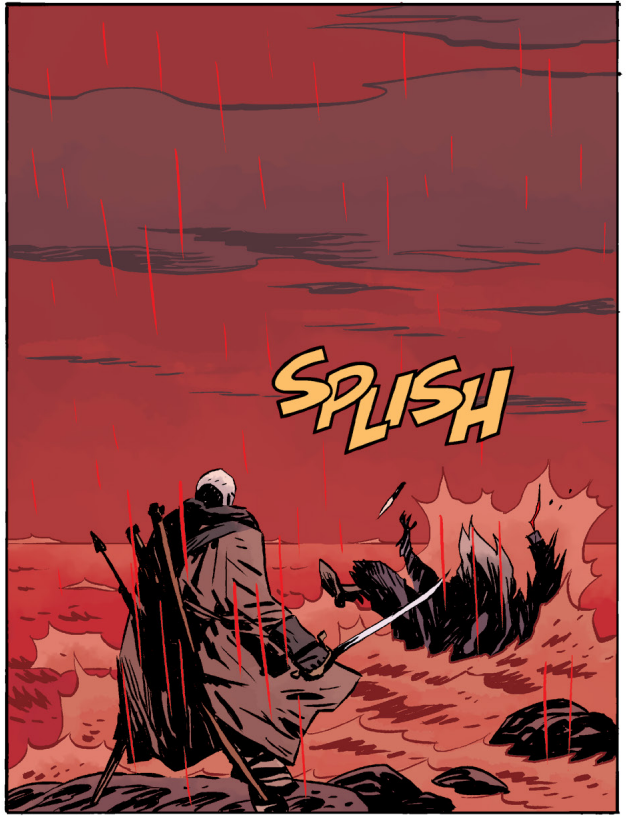


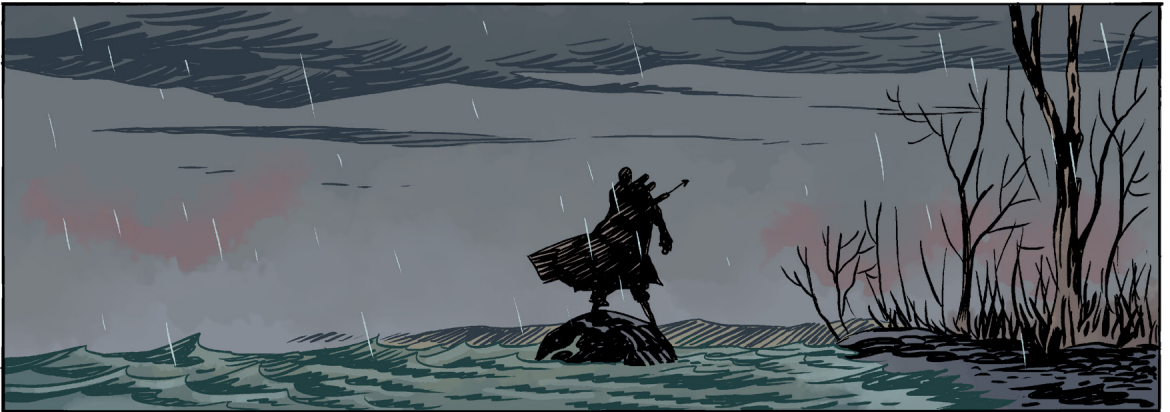
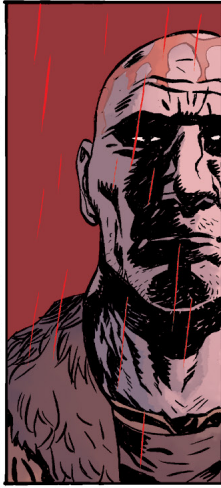
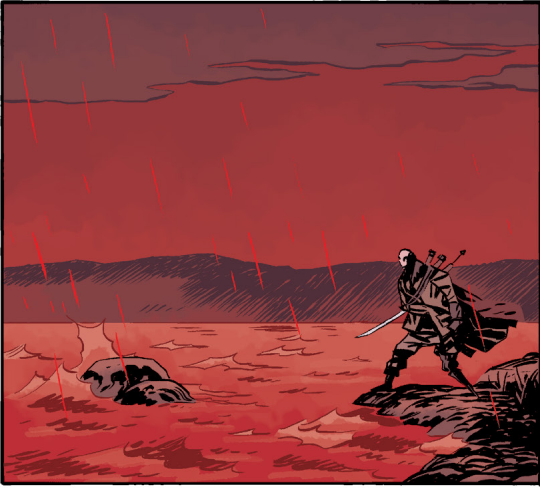




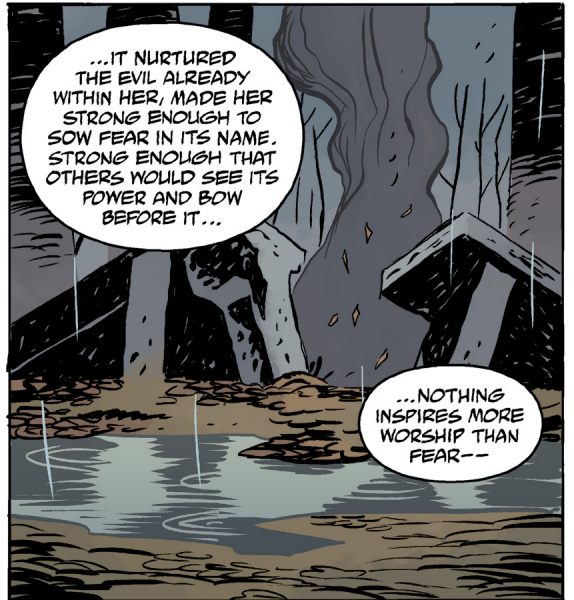
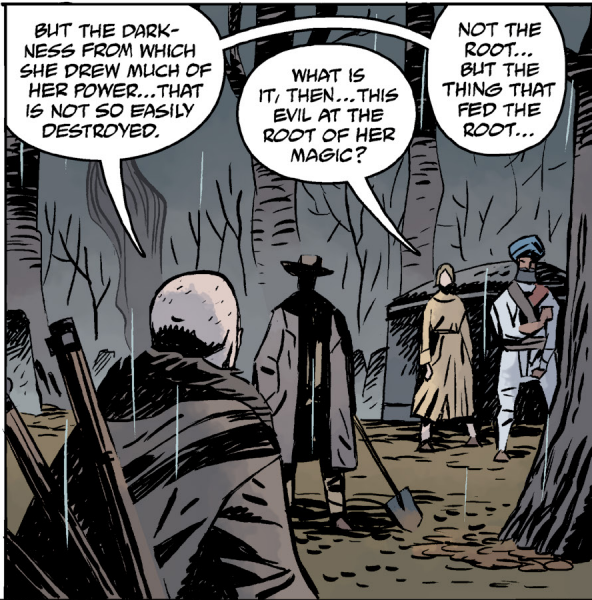


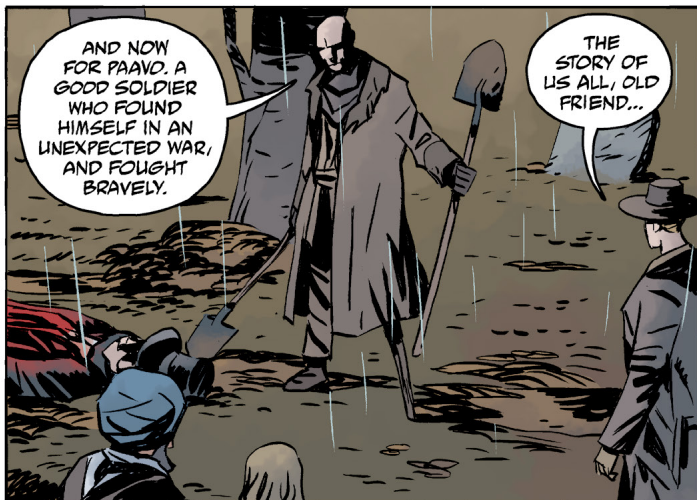


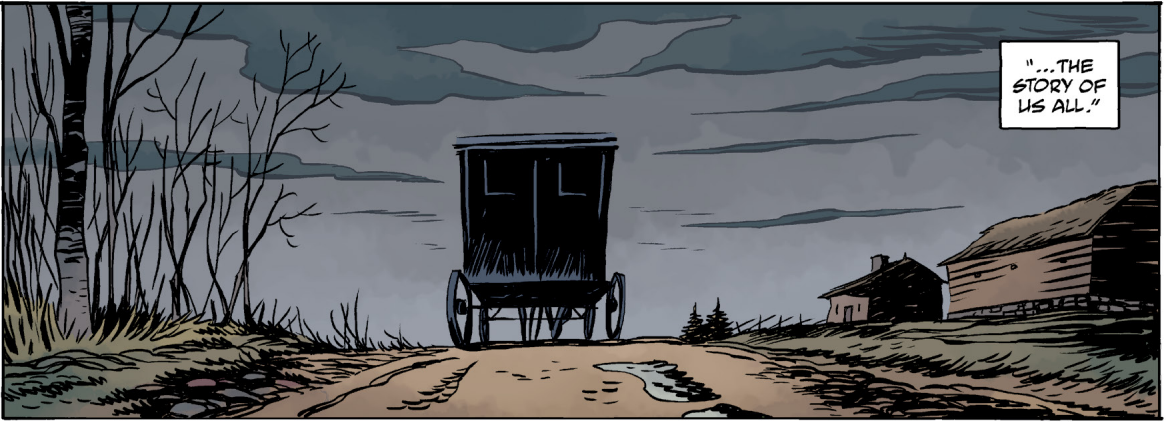


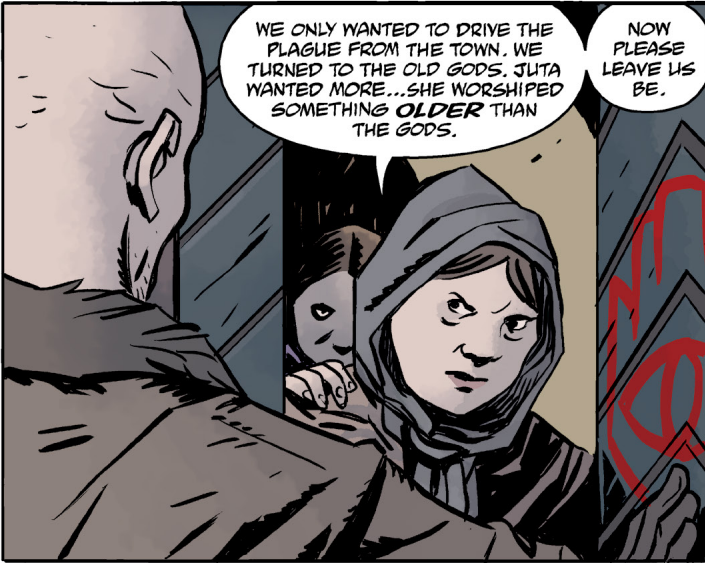














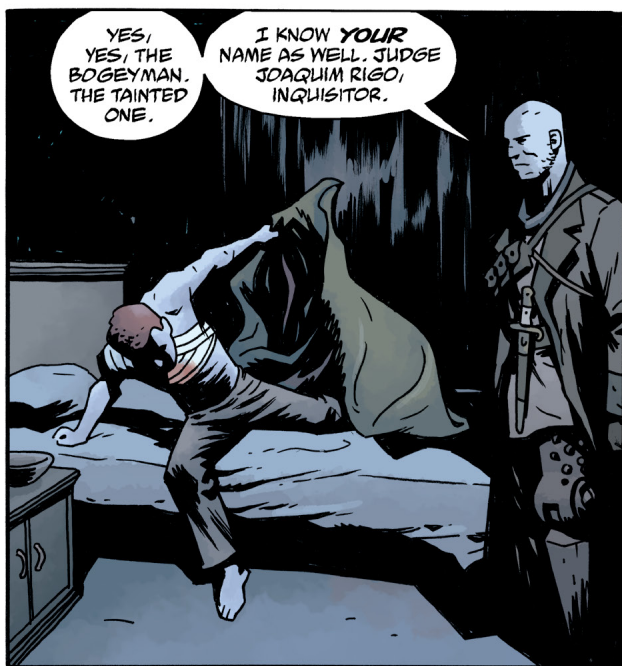
THE WOLF AND
THE APOSTLE
Chapter One





YALTA, CRIMEA.
MARCH 18, 1920.





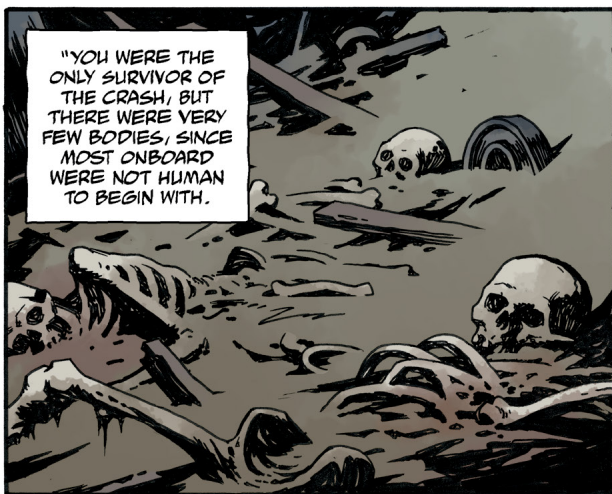




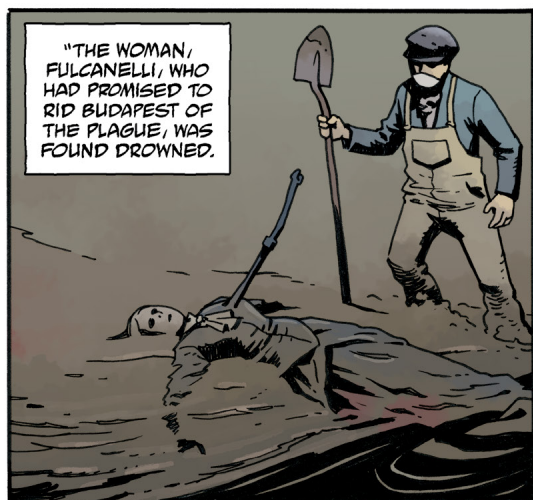
"...AND THE TRAIN THAT DERAILED OUTSIDE BUDAPEST.



"THE INQUISITION'S INVESTIGATION REVEALED THAT BOTH YOU AND JUDGE DUVIC BOARDED THE TRAIN..."



"YOU WERE THE ONLY SURVIVOR OF THE CRASH, BUT THERE WERE VERY FEW BODIES, SINCE MOST ONBOARD WERE NOT HUMAN TO BEGIN WITH.



"THE WOMAN, FULCANELLI, WHO HAD PROMISED TO RID BUDAPEST OF THE PLAGUE, WAS FOUND DROWNED.



"THEY DID FIND ONE MAN STILL ALIVE NOT FAR FROM THE WRECKAGE-- A MONK..."

(HERE! THIS ONE IS STILL BREATHING!)

(TRANSLATED FROM HUNGARIAN)







THE
CURSE OF
THE WOLF HAS
TAKEN JUDGE
DUVIC.



DUVIC WAS ALWAYS
A MONSTER--
BLOODTHIRSTY
AND CRUEL.

IF HE CAN
NO LONGER
CONTROL THE
BEAST WITHIN
HIM, IT ISN'T A
WOLF THAT
HAS CURSED
HIM...



"...IT WAS
ONE OF HIS
VICTIMS."

(YOU
CANNOT HIDE
YOUR HEART,
BEAST.)



WHO ARE YOU TO
CALL AN INQUISITOR
"MONSTER"? YOU, THE
TAINTED. YOU, THE
GODLESS. YOU, SO
INTIMATE WITH THE
DARKNESS.



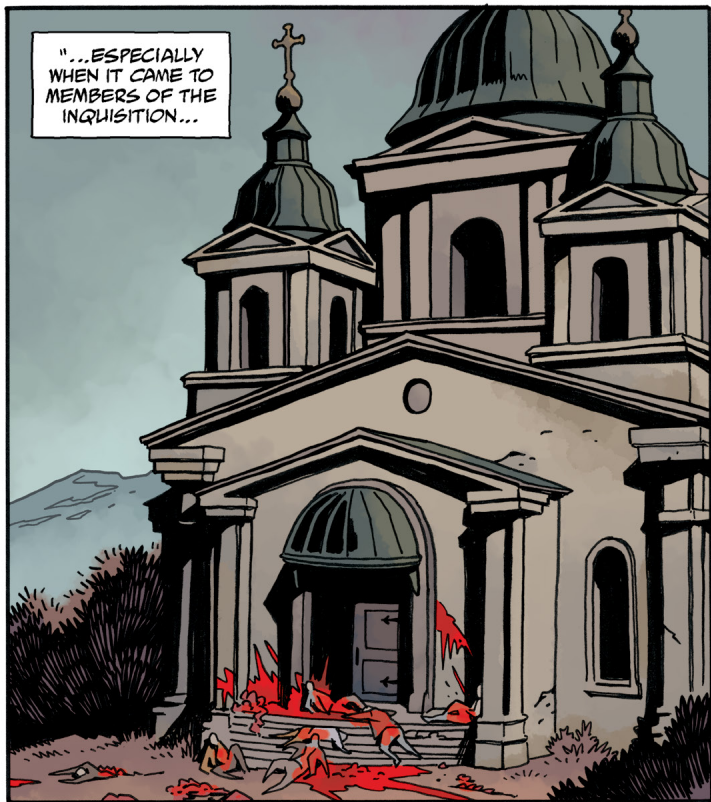
CONTINUE,
PRIEST. I DID
NOT COME HERE
TO WIN YOUR
APPROVAL.



"THE
MURDERS WERE...
GROTESQUE..."



"...ESPECIALLY
WHEN IT CAME TO
MEMBERS OF THE
INQUISITION..."

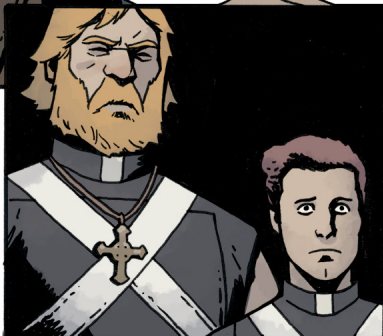


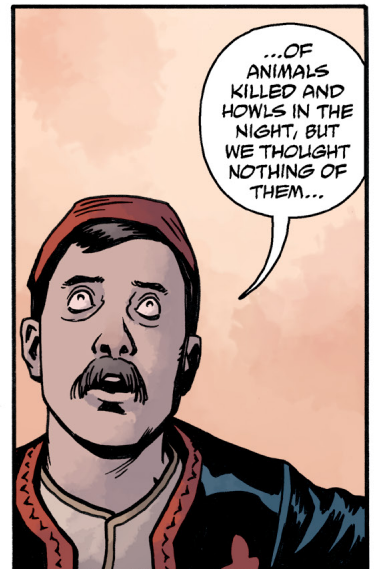
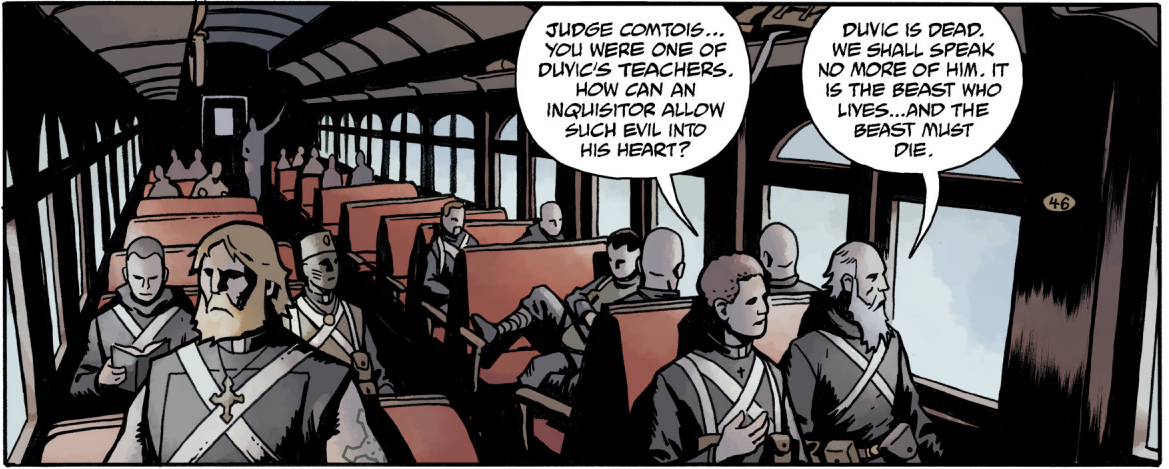
"JUDGE COMTOIS, MY INQUISITOR
GENERAL, BELIEVED THAT DUVIC
FELT GOD HAD BETRAYED HIM..."

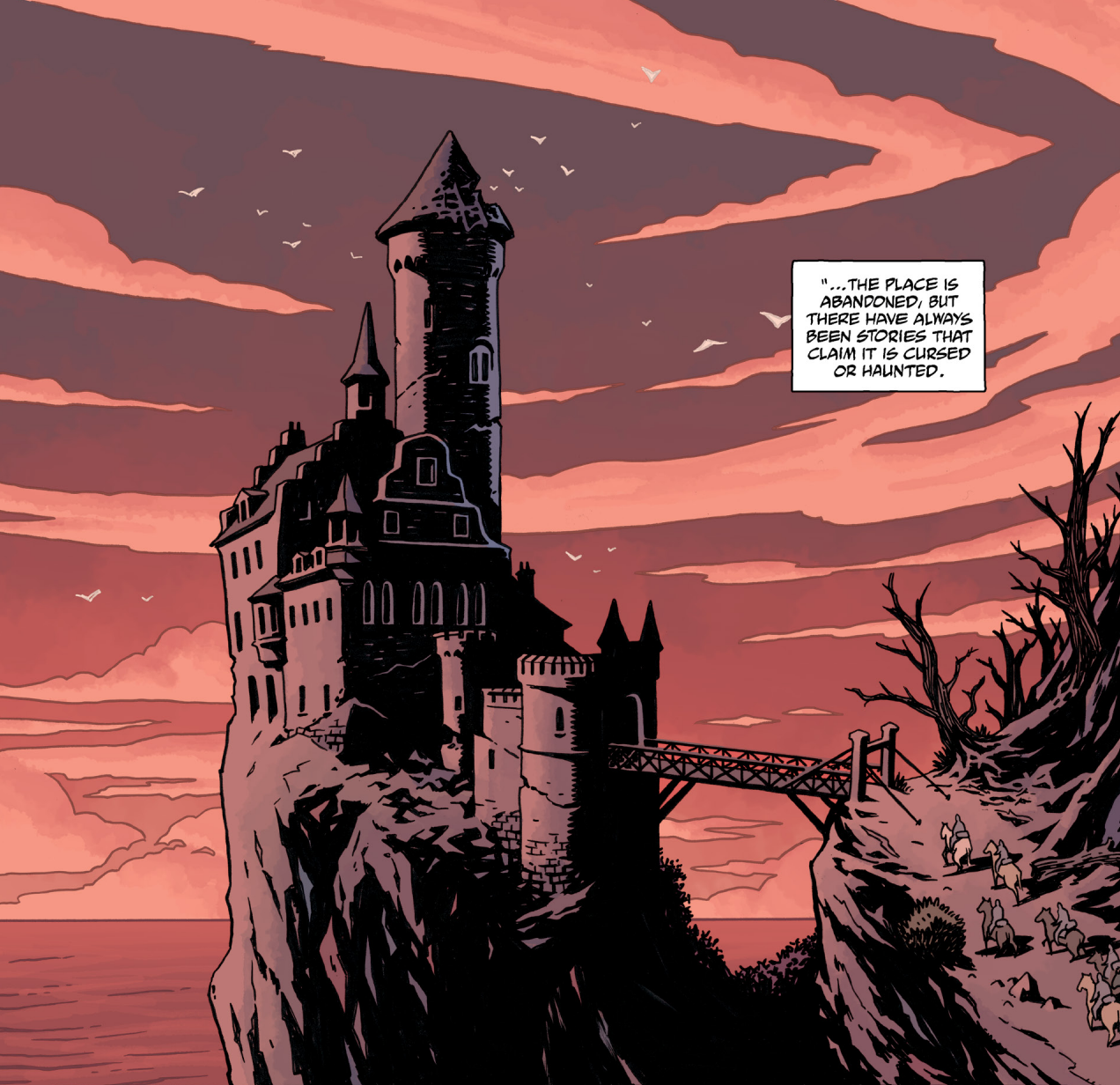


"...THAT THIS
HORROR WAS
DUVIC'S
VENGEANCE..."









"...THE PLACE IS
ABANDONED, BUT
THERE HAVE ALWAYS
BEEN STORIES THAT
CLAIM IT IS CURSED
OR HAUNTED."



"...A
FITTING
PLACE FOR
A DAMNED
SOUL."





WHY DO WE HESITATE? WE SHOULD JUST KICK THE DOOR IN!

STEALTH IS CALLED FOR HERE, JUDGE SORESEN. IF THE WOLF IS HERE, WE DO NOT WANT TO ALERT HIM.



JUDGE YEBOAH, TEN UNWASHED MEN HAVE JUST RIDDEN UP TO THE CASTLE ON HORSEBACK. IF THE WOLF *IS* HERE, DO YOU REALLY BELIEVE HE'S UNAWARE OF OUR ARRIVAL?



WELL, THEN...NO REASON FOR THE QUIET APPROACH.



KRAK



IF HE DIDN'T KNOW BEFORE--

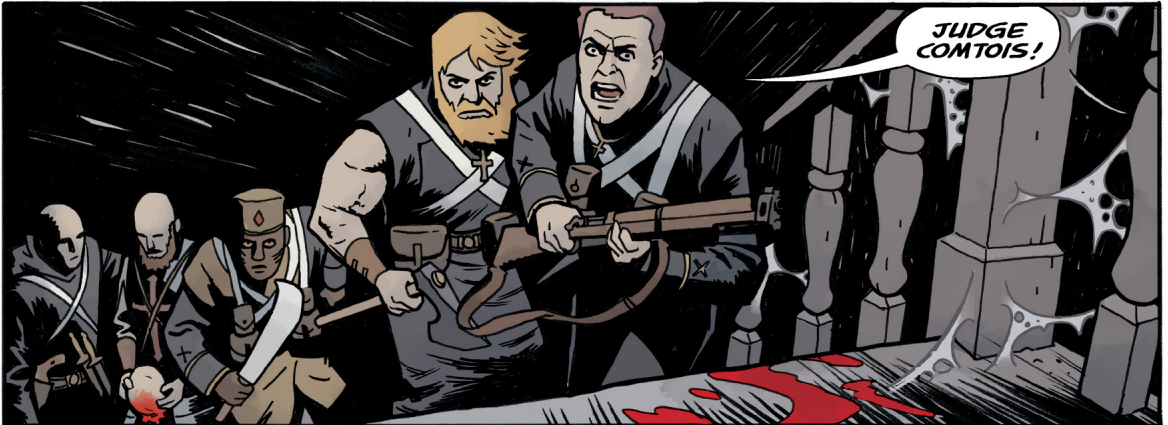


MOVE QUICKLY NOW, AND DON'T STRAY FAR FROM EACH OTHER.

GOOD HUNTING.









NOTHING'S BEEN
IN HERE OR THE
RATS'D HAVE FLED
ALREADY.



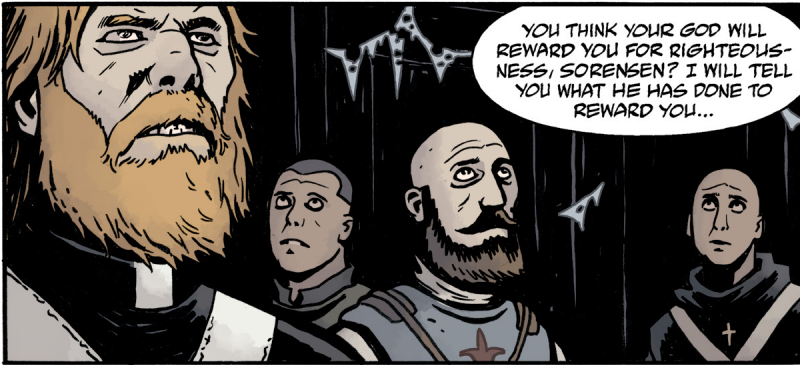
OH MY DEAR
GOD...JUDGE
COMTOIS.

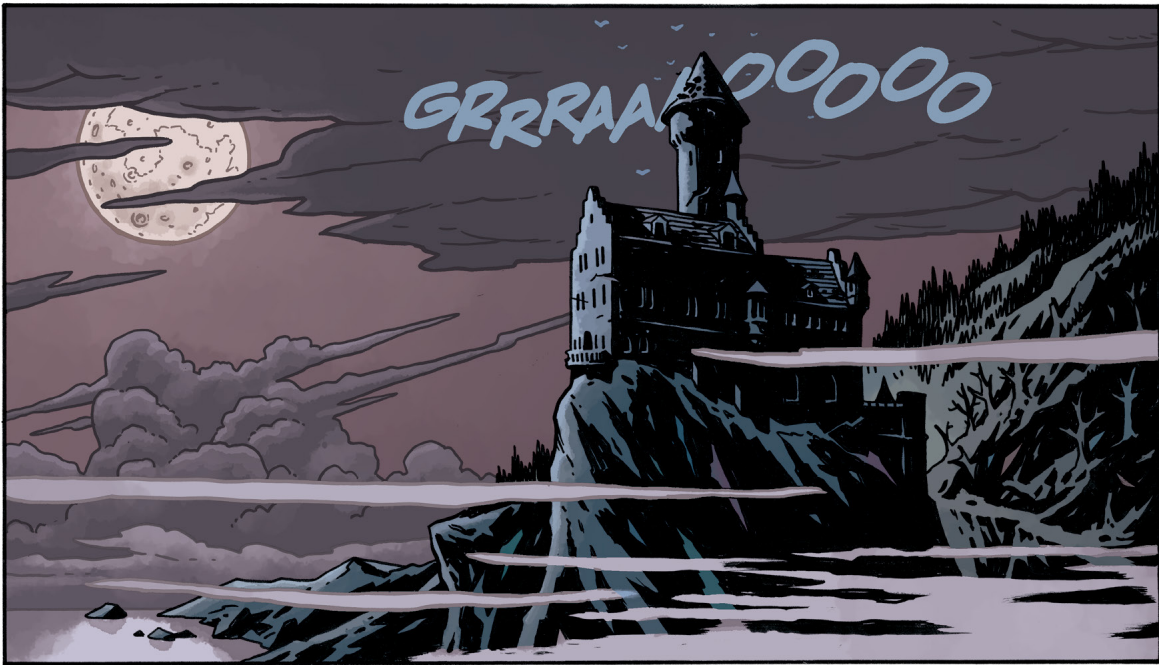




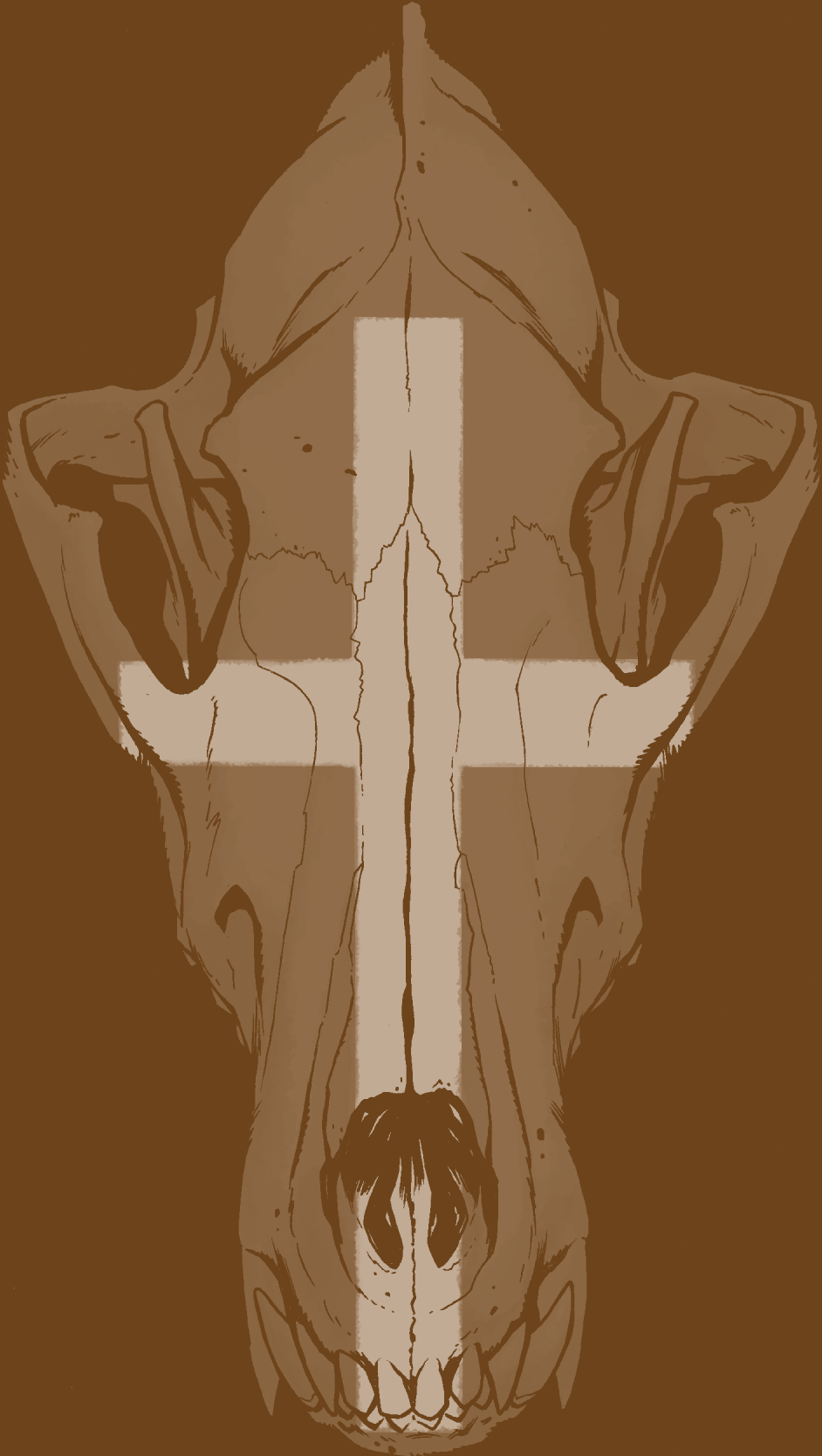


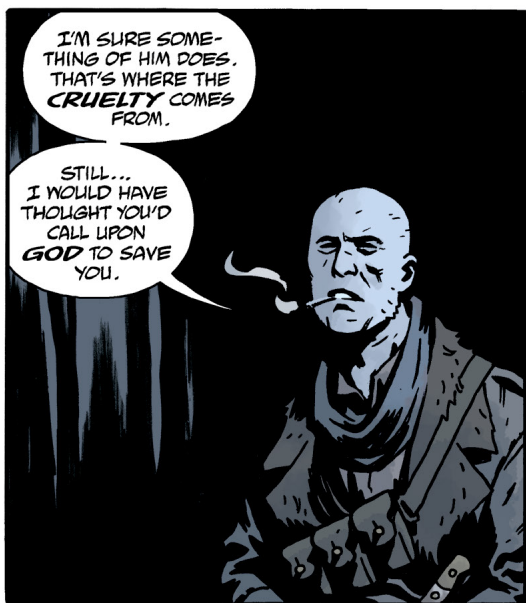
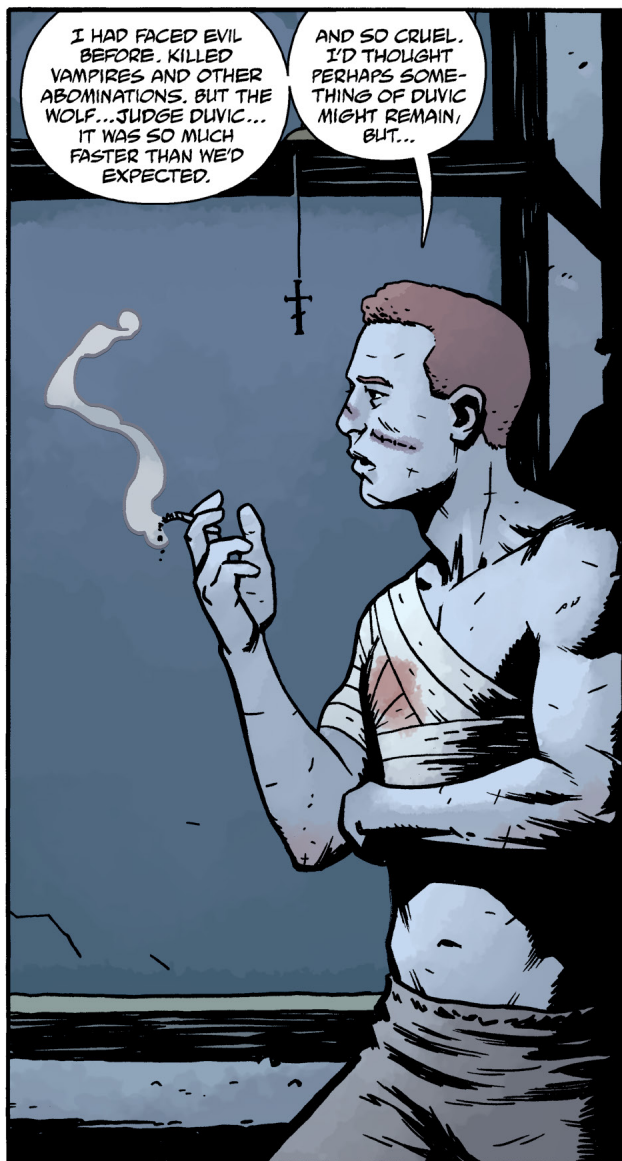
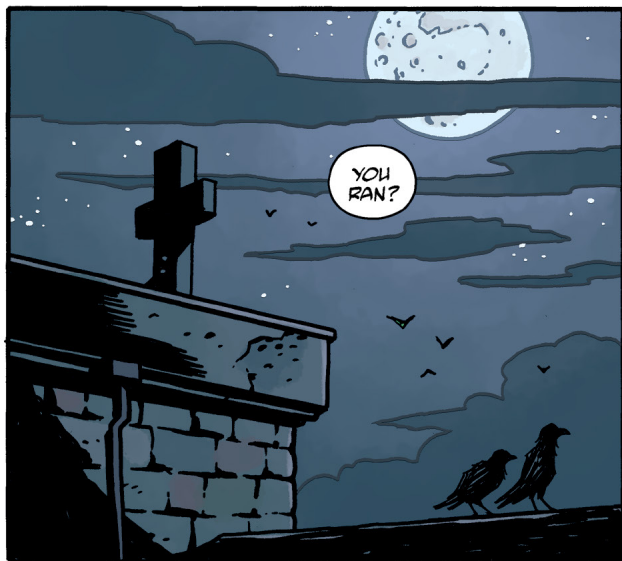






THE WOLF AND
THE APOSTLE
Chapter Two







"...BELIEVE ME, I DID."



AAIEEEGH



SHUNFH HUNFF



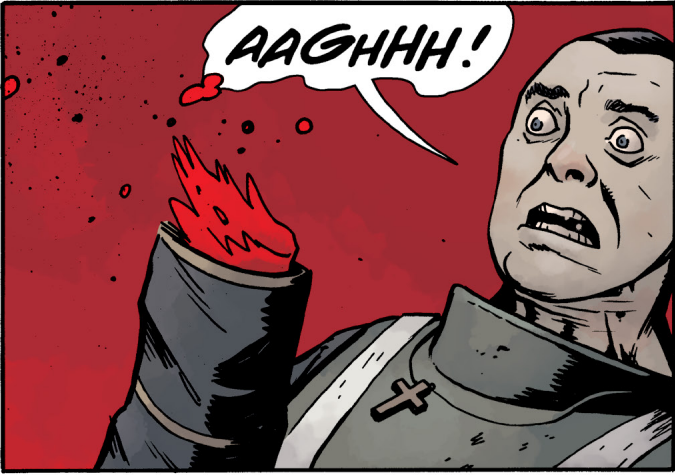
I KNOW THE MAN OF GOD MUST BE SOMEWHERE WITHIN YOU, BEAST, AND I MAKE **THIS** PROMISE TO HIM--

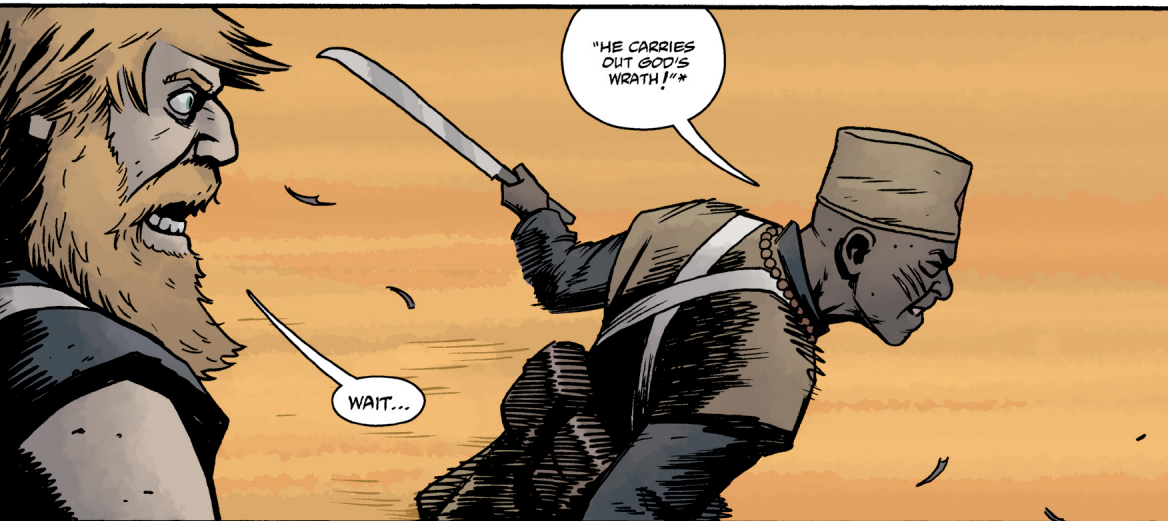
EVEN IF YOU KILL US ALL, **MORE** WILL COME. THE SOLDIERS OF THE LORD ARE **LEGION!**

LET US HOPE SO.

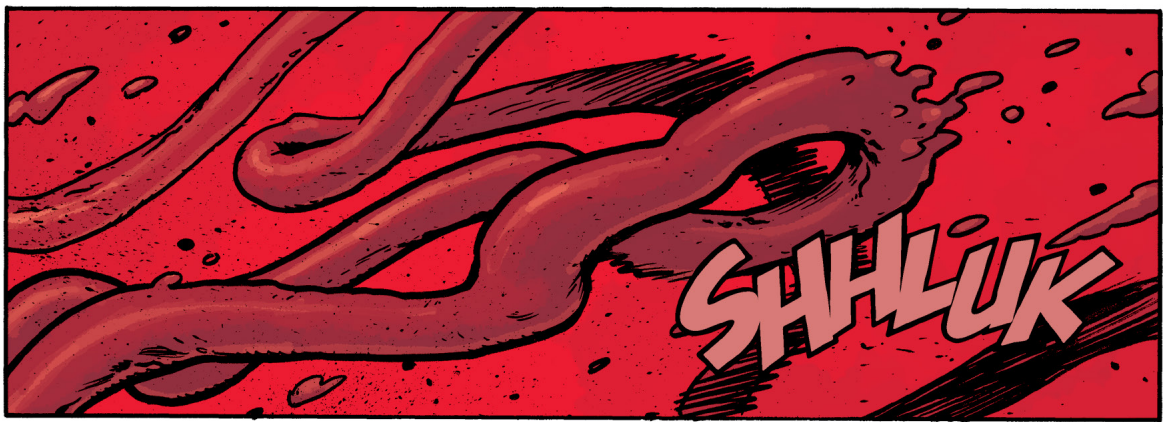


SHRRUK





*SLIGHTLY ALTERED FROM ROMANS 13:4









...OH...

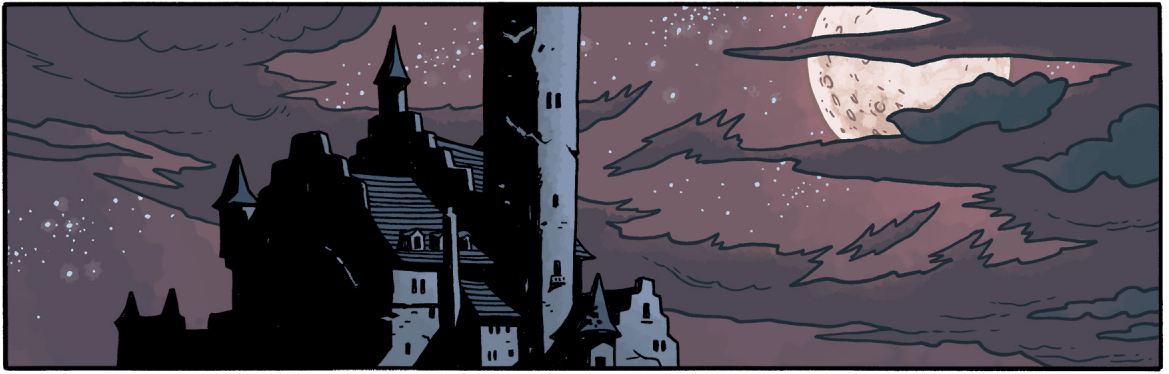


...OH...
DEAR
GOD...



THANK YOU FOR
YOUR GUIDANCE
AND YOUR
PROTECTION.

MY GOD, MY
FATHER, MY
SHIELD...



THE
MOON.

THE
DAMNABLE
MOON.

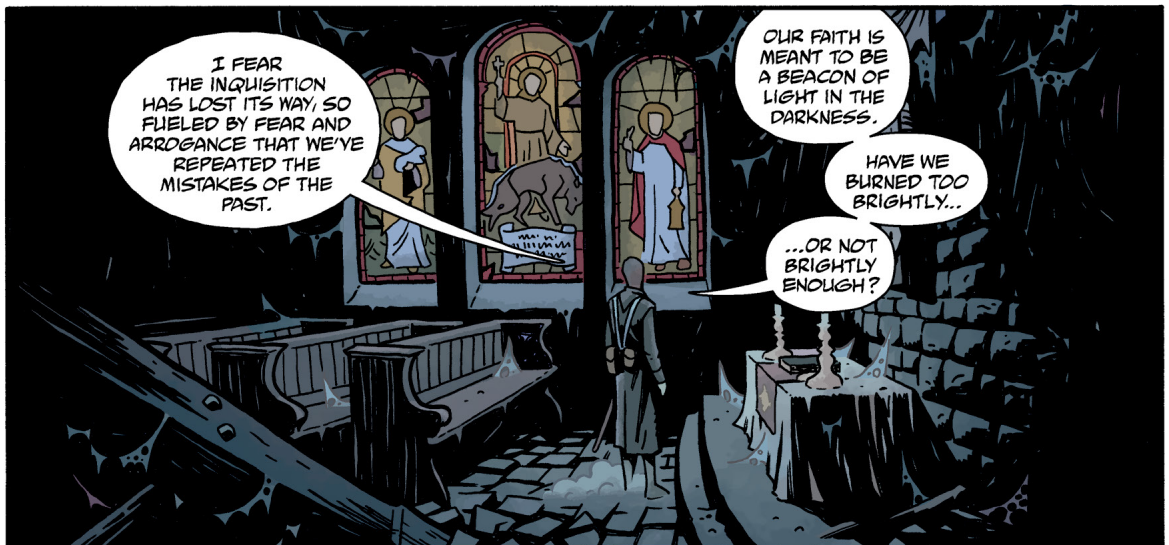


HOW CAN IT
HAVE COME
TO THIS,
LORD?

WE
ARE YOUR
KNIGHTS, YOUR
BURNING SWORD.
YOUR RIGHTEOUS
POWER FLOWS
THROUGH
US...



BUT THE
TORTURE...THE
BLIND QUEST FOR
PURIFICATION.

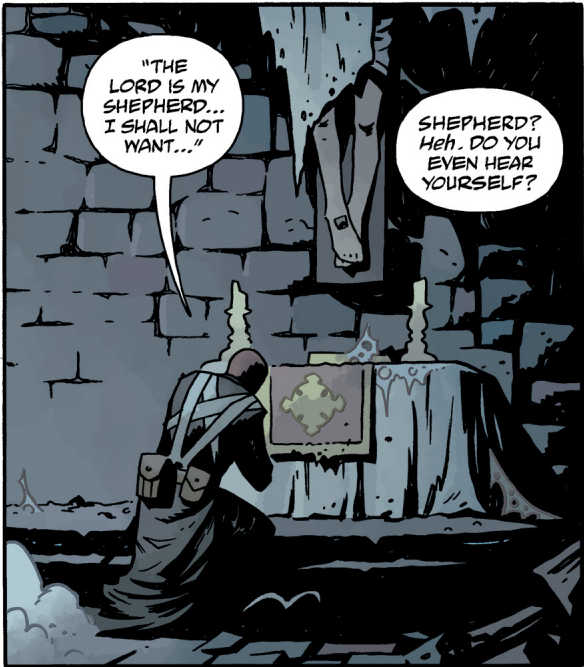


I FEAR
THE INQUISITION
HAS LOST ITS WAY, SO
FUELED BY FEAR AND
ARROGANCE THAT WE'VE
REPEATED THE
MISTAKES OF THE
PAST.

OUR FAITH IS
MEANT TO BE
A BEACON OF
LIGHT IN THE
DARKNESS.

HAVE WE
BURNED TOO
BRIGHTLY...

...OR NOT
BRIGHTLY
ENOUGH?





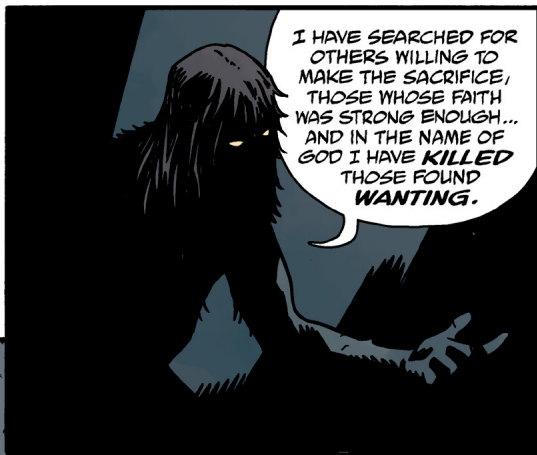


WE ARE...
EACH OF
US...WHAT **HE**
HAS MADE
US.

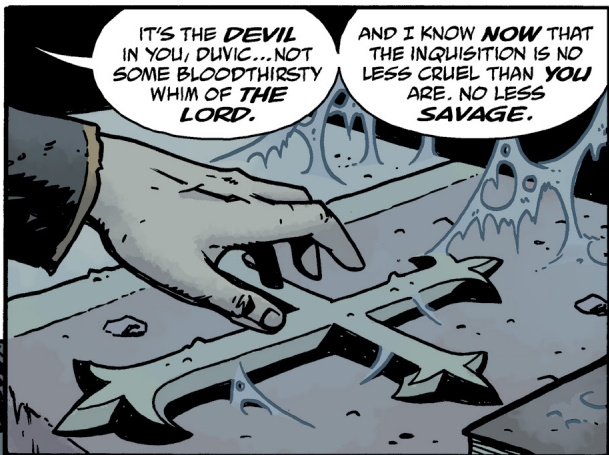


GOD
WANTS
US TO BE
SAVAGES.

HE MADE ME
AS I AM NOW...BUT
HE HAD LURED ME
ALONG THE PATH OF
SAVAGERY **LONG**
BEFORE THIS.



I HAVE SEARCHED FOR
OTHERS WILLING TO
MAKE THE SACRIFICE,
THOSE WHOSE FAITH
WAS STRONG ENOUGH...
AND IN THE NAME OF
GOD I HAVE **KILLED**
THOSE FOUND
WANTING.

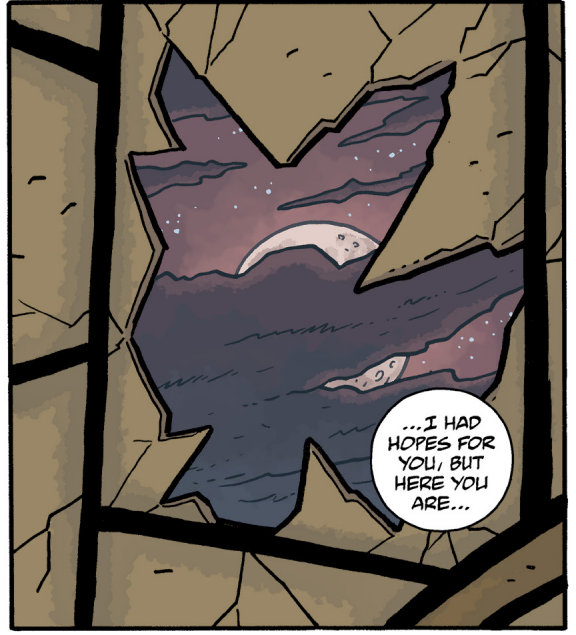


IT'S THE **DEVIL**
IN YOU, DUVIC...NOT
SOME BLOODTHIRSTY
WHIM OF **THE**
LORD.

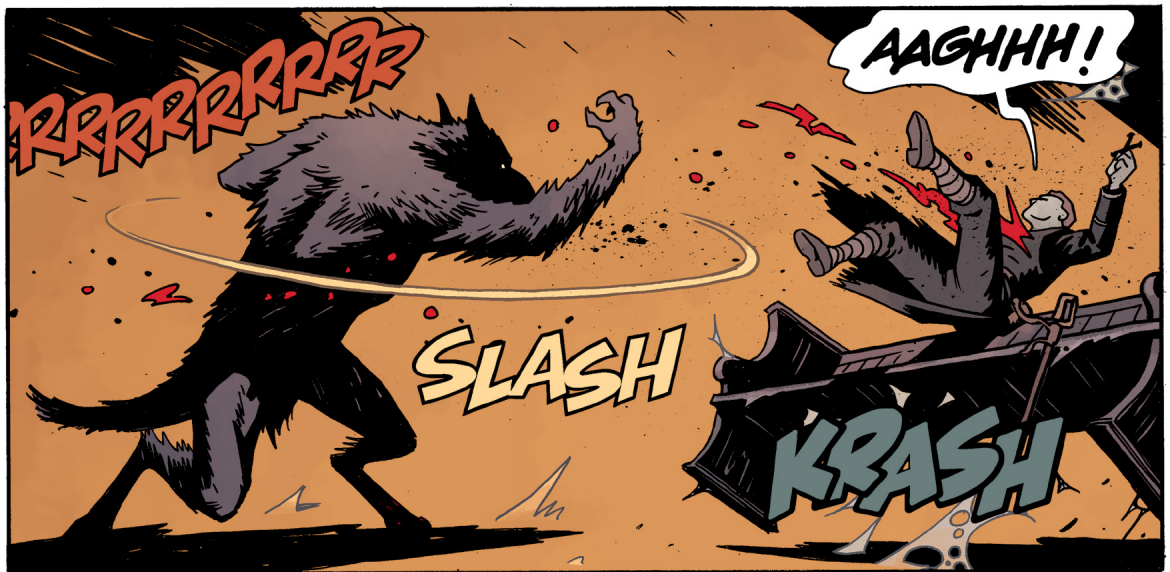
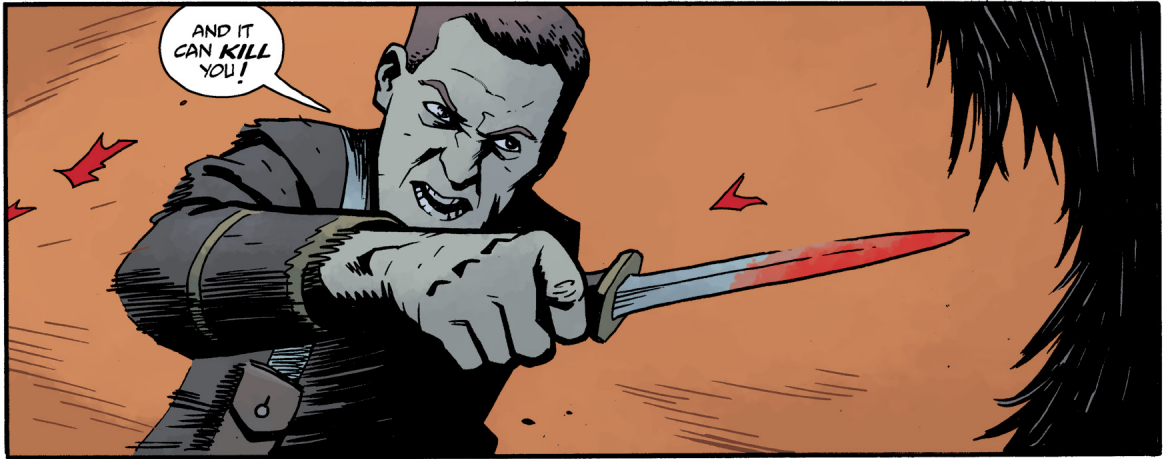
AND I KNOW **NOW** THAT
THE INQUISITION IS NO
LESS CRUEL THAN **YOU**
ARE. NO LESS
SAVAGE.

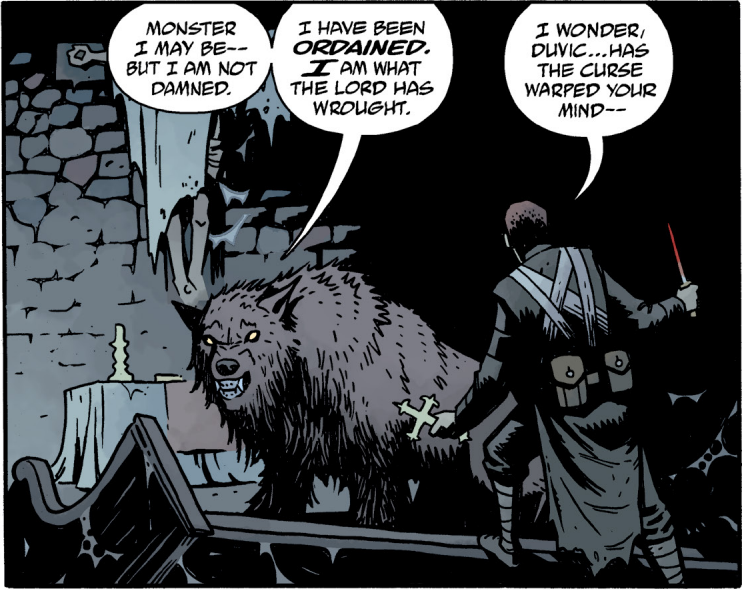


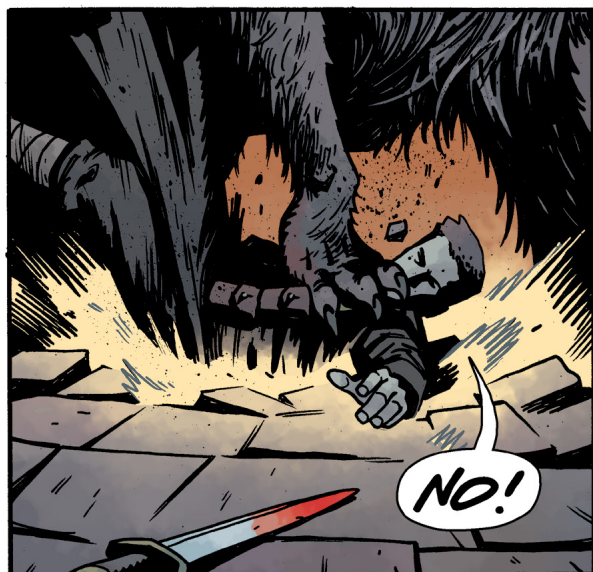
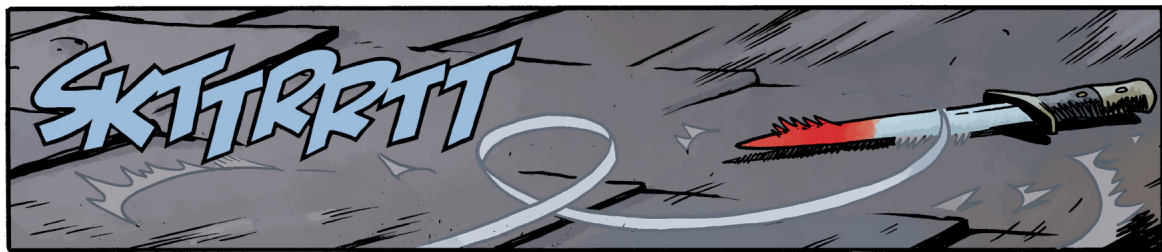
GOD
WOULD
NEVER
BLESS OUR
BARBARISM...
OR YOUR
OWN.

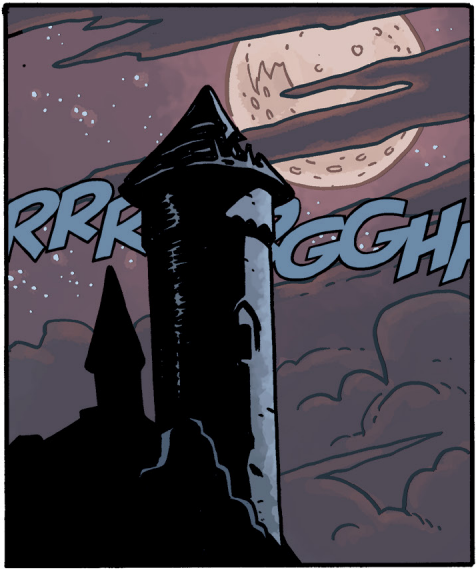




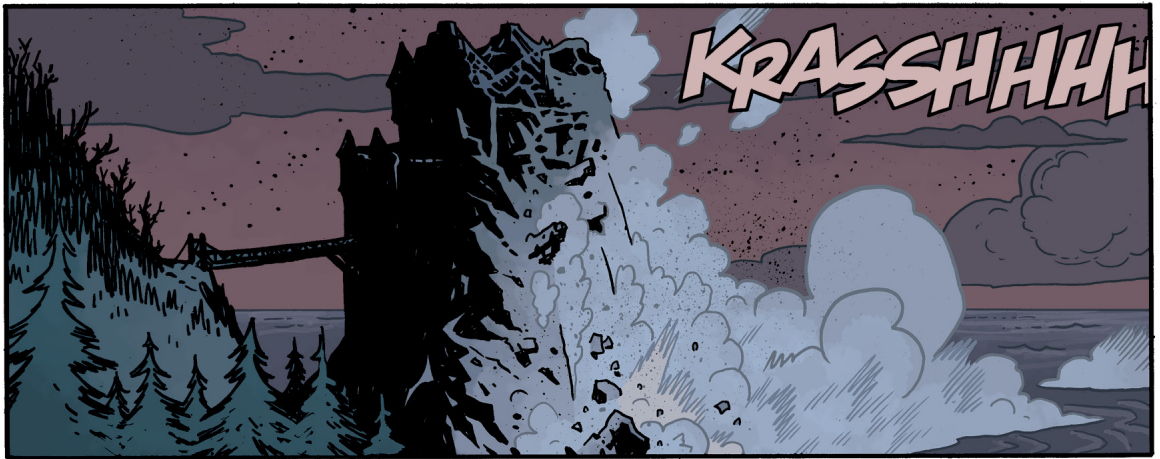


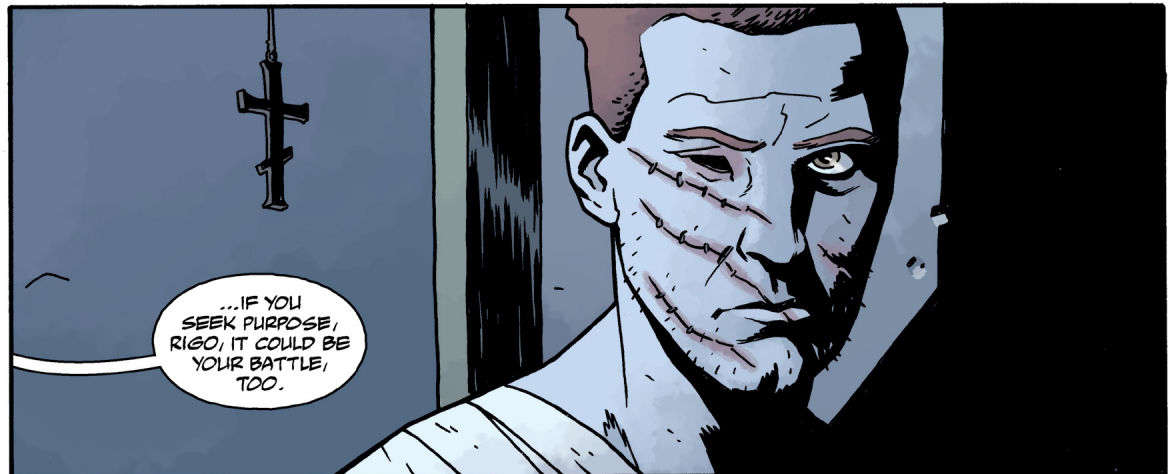
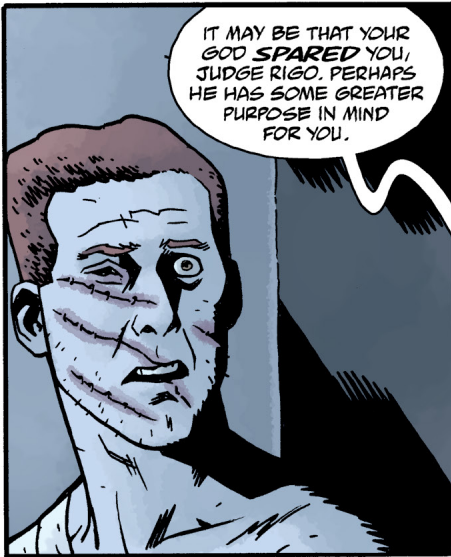














WHAT'S THIS, NOW?



MY FRIENDS, THIS IS JOAQUIM RIGO. HE WILL BE TRAVELING WITH US.

AN INQUISITOR?



JUST A MAN, NOW. BUT I'LL KEEP WEARING THE GARB OF MY FORMER STATION AS A REMINDER OF WHAT THE INQUISITION **SHOULD** HAVE BEEN. I STILL SERVE MY LORD...



"...BUT NOW I KNOW THE TRUE NATURE OF MY ENEMY."

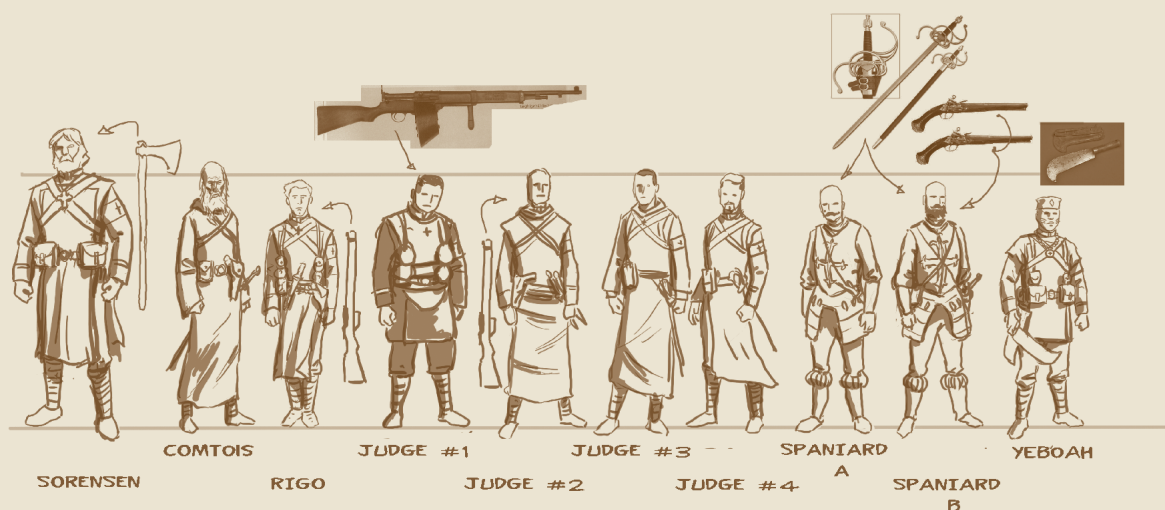
THE END

BALTIMORE™

THE APOSTLE AND THE WITCH OF HARJU

SKETCHBOOK

Notes by Peter Bergting and Ben Stenbeck



Ben Stenbeck: Part of the idea for *The Wolf and the Apostle* came from that group shot of the Inquisition we did in *The Inquisitor*. Judges 2, 3, and 4 above are in that scene. Originally I wanted them all to be in full suits of armor, but settled for armor on only a few of them.

Left: Rigo. I should have kept his hair as big as this. I had great reference for that eye, with no other wound touching it, almost like the sheer blunt force of the werewolf hitting him is what popped his eye out. Gross.



Bones



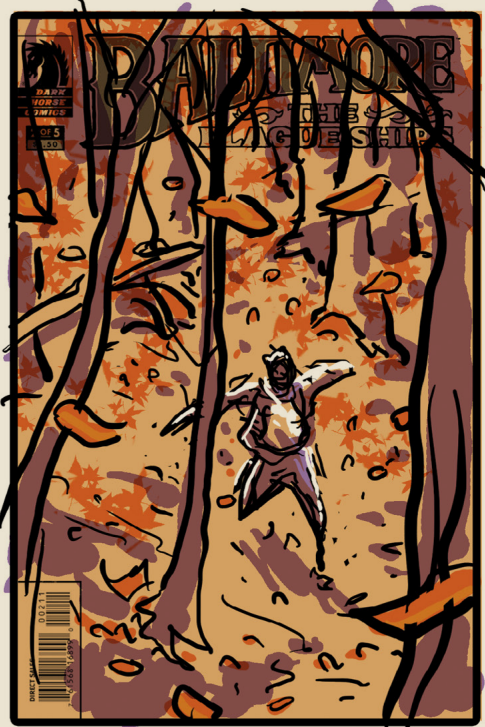
Bones

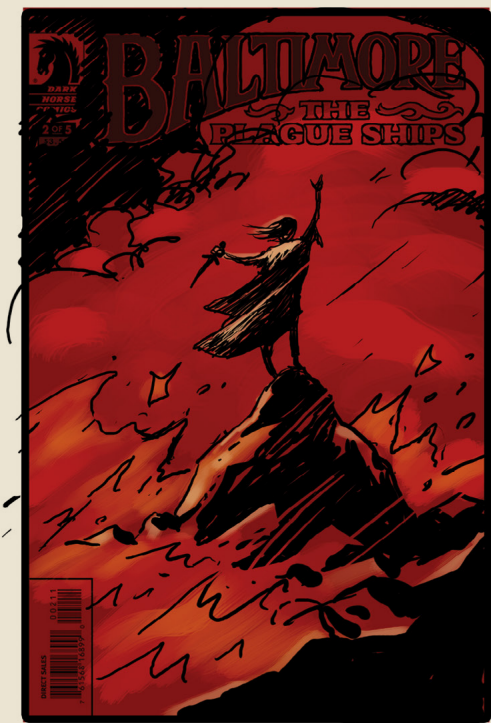


crying

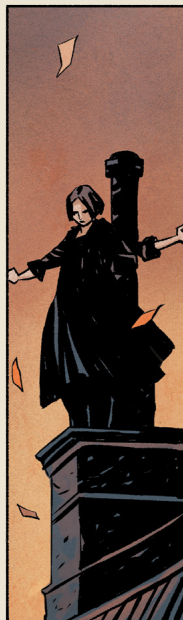


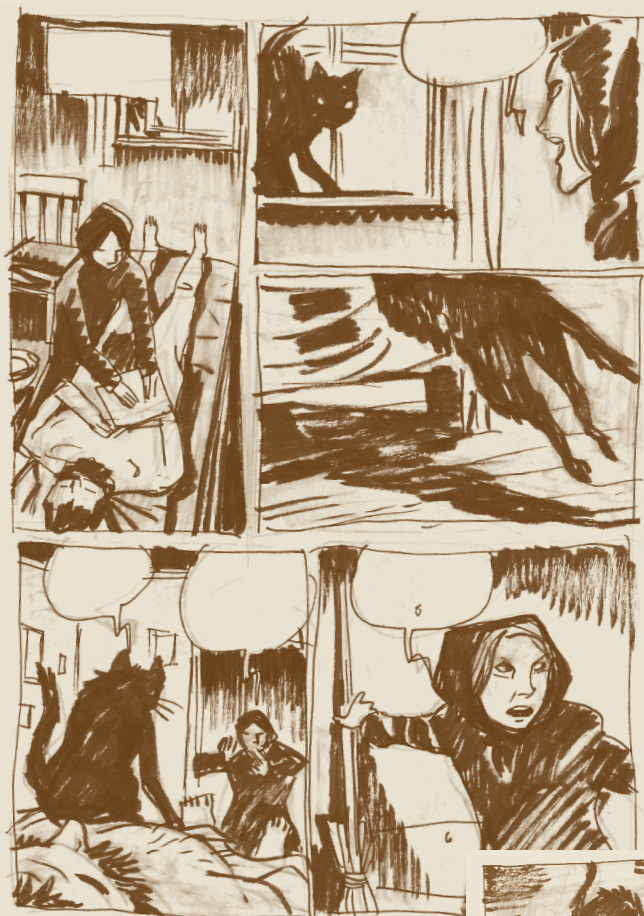
BS: These cover sketches were all done digitally—very fast. The *Witch of Harju* covers on the following pages were tough because the scripts weren't written when I drew these, which is why my witch isn't nearly as cool as Peter's.





Peter Bergting: I was in the middle of working on *The Portent: Ashes* and had no idea Dark Horse wanted me for *Baltimore* when my *Portent* editor, Daniel Chabon, asked me for a test page. I was anxious to get everything right and there was a lot of back and forth until it started to gel. I redid panel 2 because the expression was off. This being a test page, I could draw what I wanted, so I pitted Baltimore against two famous Swedish writers that would make awesome vampires. I had no idea that Dave Stewart would be coloring it, so I added my own colors. When I do my own stuff the colors make up perhaps 75 percent of my art, but I was never nervous about handing my work over to Dave. He is, after all, the master.





10.

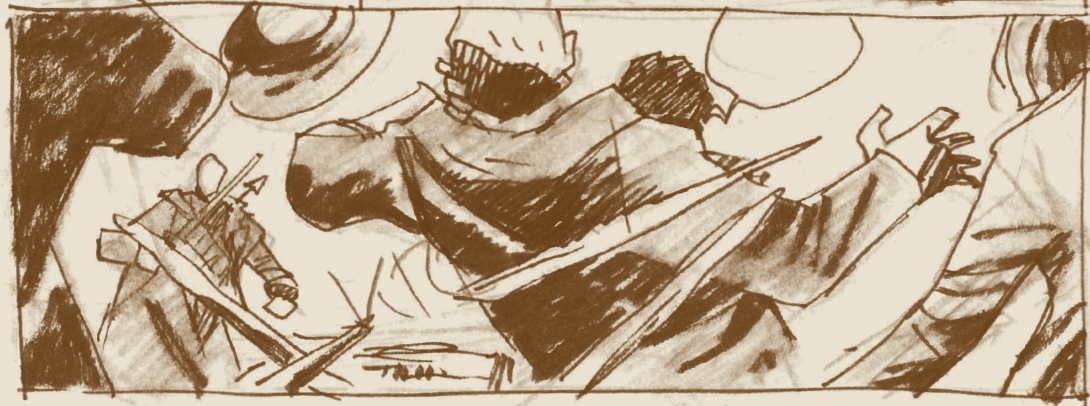
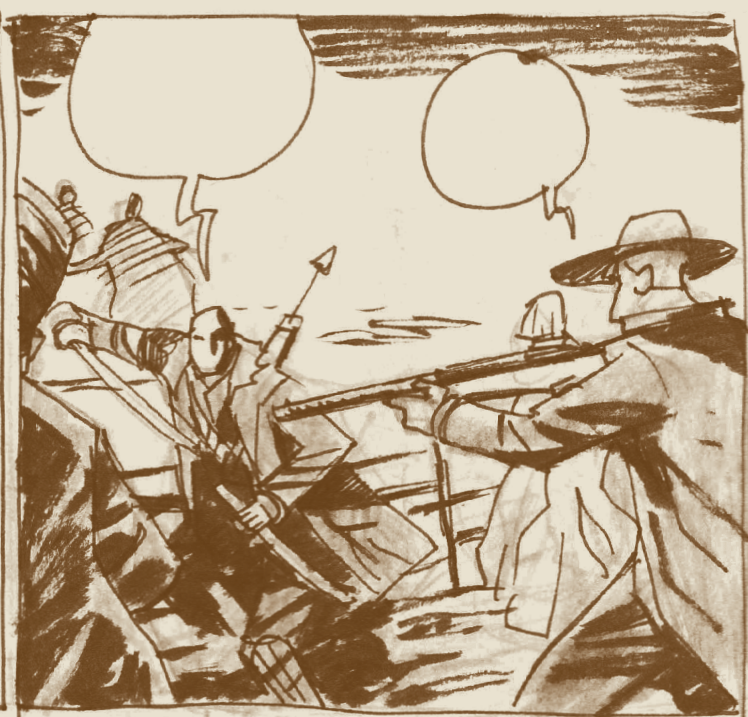
Following pages: This was the preview page that was supposed to sell the book. I immediately started second guessing myself. What did Dark Horse want, what would Mike say, and so on. I got so nervous that I started aping Mignola's style, resulting in a few interesting back-and-forths between the editors and me. They kept asking for more Bergting, and I kept sending in Mignola pastiches. I think I found my stride at the end of the first series. The preview page ended up looking nothing like the finished page.

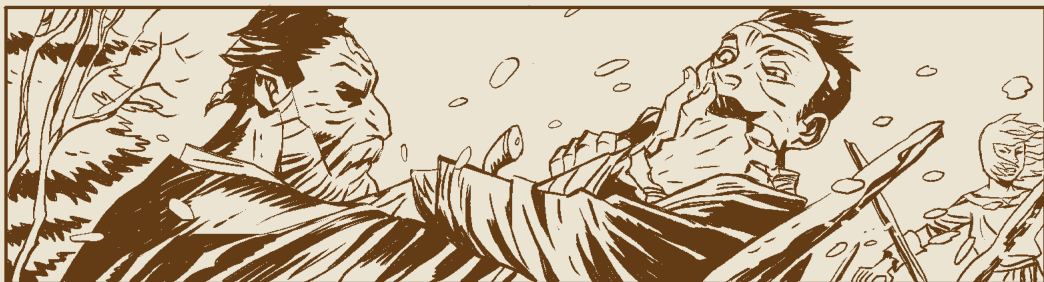
Chris writes awesome scripts. There are moody passages that just beg to be illustrated and quiet character beats that could look boring, but thanks to the dialogue, always come out fabulous.

This was a fun scene in my first issue with the foulmouthed cat. The layout changed considerably in the inking stage. When I do my own books I usually skip the pencils. Working digitally allows me to meld the process, constantly redrawing until I'm happy instead of handing in pencils for approval and then inking them. I try to keep my pencils as loose as I can get away with so I can experiment more when inking.

I love drawing cats. Later I added one or two even when they weren't in the script. But at this stage on the book I was very reverential of the script, not having the guts to offer input. I'm getting more confident now. Scott and Shantel, the editors, have been great with that, pushing me to not only deliver better stuff, but also to be more confident.









PB: Chris had a really fun description and some specific references. The trick was coming up with something original and fun and scary, then having Mike put his filter on it. No one does monsters like Mike does. No one. It was thrilling to see my critters come back, looking awesome. One look at Mike's drawing and you go, "Yeah, that's how it's supposed to look." It's like being back in school.

First
Stage

Eyes so deep set that it almost
appears to have

Empty eye
socket --

Gives Head
a fish skull
appearance

BALTIMORE

CREATURE
DESIGN

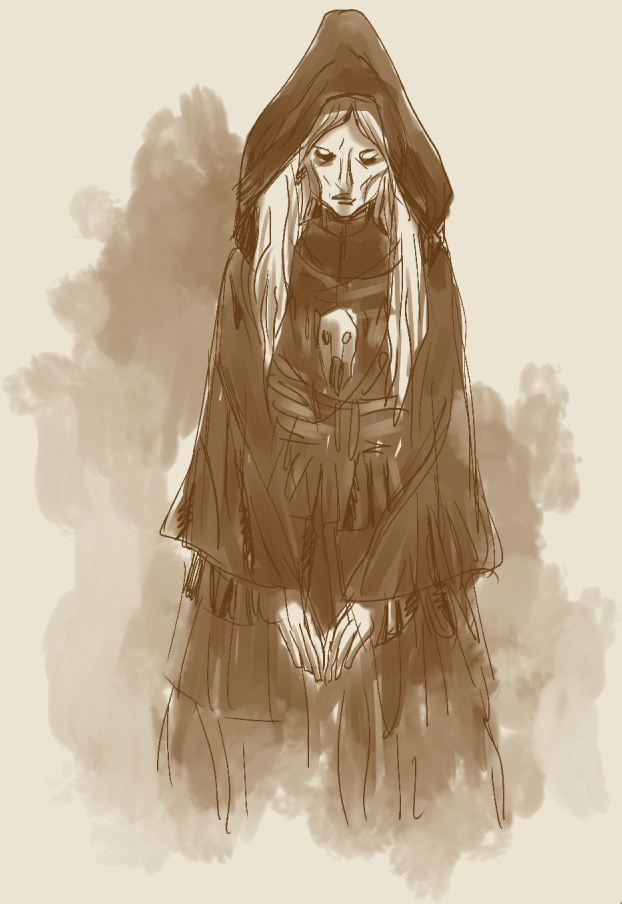
Second
Stage
End of issue 2 ?

THIRD
STAGE ?

- I suggest losing
the mole-snout
feature.
- LOSING THE
SKINNY NECK
- LOWERING THE
ARMS TO GET
A LITTLE FURTHER
AWAY FROM HUMAN
ANATOMY



MIGNA



PB: Again, another design that went through Mike. The witch was supposed to end up on the cover of the trade. She didn't, but there was a specific design we needed to come up with, a symbol Mike could use, so I took her bird-like features and put that idea in the tattered clothes.

Following pages: I do a lot of sketches while working and to keep myself busy while dragging kids around. Some of these are done while at riding school, others at the breakfast table. The one at the end of this section, the portrait of Baltimore, is my way of getting under his skin. Just finding the mood. Little pieces like this help remind me who the characters are.





BERGTING 2014











MIKE MIGNOLA's fascination with ghosts and monsters began at an early age; reading *Dracula* at age twelve introduced him to Victorian literature and folklore, from which he has never recovered. Starting in 1982 as a bad inker for Marvel Comics, he swiftly evolved into a not-so-bad artist. By the late 1980s, he had begun to develop his own unique graphic style, with mainstream projects like *Cosmic Odyssey* and *Batman: Gotham by Gaslight*. In 1994, he published the first *Hellboy* series through Dark Horse. There are over fifteen *Hellboy* graphic novels (with more on the way), several spinoff titles (*B.P.R.D.*, *Lobster Johnson*, *Abe Sapien*, and *Sir Edward Grey: Witchfinder*), prose books, animated films, and two live-action films starring Ron Perlman. Along the way he worked on Francis Ford Coppola's film *Bram Stoker's Dracula* (1992), was a production designer for Disney's *Atlantis: The Lost Empire* (2001), and was the visual consultant to director Guillermo del Toro on *Blade II* (2002), *Hellboy* (2004), and *Hellboy II: The Golden Army* (2008). Mike's books have earned numerous awards and are published in a great many countries. Mike lives somewhere in Southern California with his wife, daughter, and cat.

CHRISTOPHER GOLDEN is the *New York Times* best-selling, Bram Stoker Award-winning author of such novels as *Snowblind*, *Of Saints and Shadows*, *The Myth Hunters*, *Strangewood*, and *Tin Men*. He has also written books for teens and young adults, including the *Body of Evidence* series, *Poison Ink*, and *Soulless*. A lifelong fan of the team-up, he has collaborated with numerous authors, most recently with Charlaine Harris on the graphic novel trilogy *Cemetery Girl*. As an editor, he has worked on the short story anthologies *Seize the Night*, *The New Dead*, and *Dark Duets*, among others, and has also written and cowritten comic books, video games, screenplays, and a network television pilot. Golden was born and raised in Massachusetts, where he still lives with his family. His original novels have been published in more than fourteen languages in countries around the world. Please visit him at ChristopherGolden.com.

BEN STENBECK discovered the joy of comics after he found a copy of *2000 AD* when he was six years old. He has worked as an illustrator and designer on everything from films to comics and games, with a lot of commercial illustration work in between. He has worked on several titles for Dark Horse Comics, including *Living with the Dead*, *Witchfinder: In the Service of Angels*, and *B.P.R.D.: The Ectoplasmic Man*. He lives in Auckland, New Zealand, with his wife and two sons and three horses.

PETER BERGTING has spent all of his life drawing silly and scary things and made his comic book debut with the 2006 series *The Portent*. He loves working on his slice of the Mignolaverse and plops down in front of the drawing board with a big, cheesy grin every day.

*“This is pure, unadulterated
monster hunting as it should be.”*

—Comic Bastards



“Together, Mignola and Golden create a beautiful landscape of dark lore, ancient blood and unquenchable vengeance that’s managed to make the long-running series comparable with Mignola’s big-fisted counterpart.” —Fangoria

“This is a must-read for any Mignola fan.” —Geeks of Doom

“If you’re looking for another Mignola book, this one will fit the bill, rising to the usual high standard of quality.” —Bloody Disgusting

“If you’re intrigued about horror in the early 20th century, this [series] promises to deliver on that premise.” —Bloody Disgusting

“Mignola and Golden prove that they have compelling stories for this universe.”
—All-Comic



DarkHorse.com